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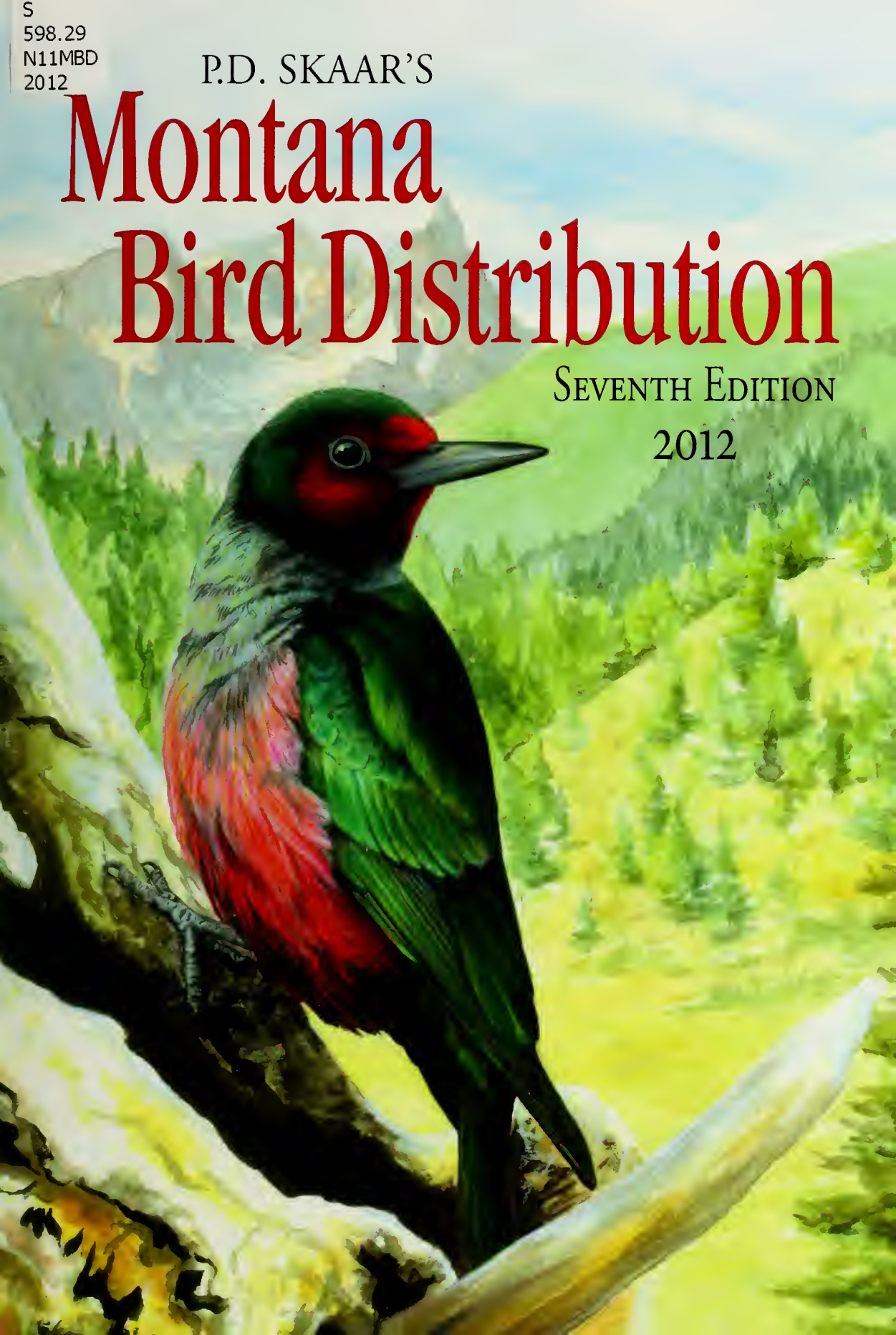
P.D. SKAAR'S

Montana Bird Distribution

SEVENTH EDITION

2012



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CHECKLIST OF

MONTANA BIRDS

Lewis's Woodpecker Painting by Andrew Guttenburg

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MONTANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Montana Audubon

April 2012

Bird Species Observed in Montana through April 2012

Notes: B = Verified breeding records for MT
b = Indirect evidence of breeding for MT
t = No evidence of breeding for MT, transient
W = Verified overwinter records for MT (12/15-2/15)
w = Present during winter season

Species with fewer than 20 accepted records are listed in italics

1	Greater White-fronted Goose	t	w
2	Snow Goose	t	w
3	Ross's Goose	t	w
4	*Cackling Goose*	t	W
5	Canada Goose	B	W
6	*Brant*	t	
7	Mute Swan	B	W
8	Trumpeter Swan	B	W
9	Tundra Swan	t	W
10	Wood Duck	B	W
11	Gadwall	B	W
12	Eurasian Wigeon	t	w
13	American Wigeon	B	W
14	American Black Duck	t	w
15	Mallard	B	W
16	Blue-winged Teal	B	w
17	Cinnamon Teal	B	W
18	Northern Shoveler	B	W
19	Northern Pintail	B	W
20	*Garganey*	t	
21	Green-winged Teal	B	W
22	Canvasback	B	W
23	Redhead	B	W
24	Ring-necked Duck	B	W
25	*Tufted Duck*	t	
26	Greater Scaup	t	W
27	Lesser Scaup	B	W
28	Harlequin Duck	B	W
29	Surf Scoter	t	w
30	White-winged Scoter	t	w
31	*Black Scoter*	t	w
32	Long-tailed Duck	t	W
33	Bufflehead	B	W
34	Common Goldeneye	B	W
35	Barrow's Goldeneye	B	W
36	Hooded Merganser	B	W
37	Common Merganser	B	W
38	Red-breasted Merganser	t	W
39	Ruddy Duck	B	W
40	Chukar	B	W
41	Gray Partridge	B	W
42	Ring-necked Pheasant	B	W
43	Ruffed Grouse	B	W
44	Greater Sage-Grouse	B	W
45	Spruce Grouse	B	W
46	*Willow Ptarmigan*		w
47	White-tailed Ptarmigan	B	W
48	Dusky Grouse	B	W
49	Sharp-tailed Grouse	B	W
50	*Greater Prairie-Chicken*	b	
51	Wild Turkey	B	W
52	*Red-throated Loon*	t	
53	Pacific Loon	t	w
54	Common Loon	B	W
55	*Yellow-billed Loon*	t	w
56	Pied-billed Grebe	B	W
57	Horned Grebe	B	W
58	Red-necked Grebe	B	W
59	Eared Grebe	B	W
60	Western Grebe	B	W
61	Clark's Grebe	B	
62	*Manx Shearwater*	t	
63	*Wood Stork*	t	
64	Double-crested Cormorant	B	w
65	American White Pelican	B	w
66	American Bittern	B	w
67	*Least Bittern*	t	
68	Great Blue Heron	B	W
69	Great Egret	t	
70	Snowy Egret	B	
71	*Little Blue Heron*	t	
72	Cattle Egret	t	
73	*Green Heron*	t	
74	Black-crowned Night-Heron	B	
75	*Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*	t	
76	*Glossy Ibis*	t	
77	White-faced Ibis	B	
78	Turkey Vulture	B	w
79	Osprey	B	w
80	*White-tailed Kite*	t	
81	*Mississippi Kite*	t	
82	Bald Eagle	B	W
83	Northern Harrier	B	W
84	Sharp-shinned Hawk	B	W
85	Cooper's Hawk	B	W
86	Northern Goshawk	B	W
87	*Red-shouldered Hawk*	t	
88	Broad-winged Hawk	t	
89	Swainson's Hawk	B	w
90	Red-tailed Hawk	B	W
91	Ferruginous Hawk	B	W
92	Rough-legged Hawk	t	W
93	Golden Eagle	B	W
94	*Crested Caracara*	t	
95	American Kestrel	B	W
96	Merlin	B	W
97	Gyrfalcon	t	W
98	Peregrine Falcon	B	W
99	Prairie Falcon	B	W
100	Yellow Rail	b	
101	Virginia Rail	B	W
102	Sora	B	w
103	*Common Gallinule*	t	
104	American Coot	B	W
105	Sandhill Crane	B	W
106	Whooping Crane	t	
107	Black-bellied Plover	t	
108	American Golden-Plover	t	
109	*Snowy Plover*	b	
110	Semipalmated Plover	t	
111	Piping Plover	B	
112	Killdeer	B	W
113	Mountain Plover	B	
114	Black-necked Stilt	B	
115	American Avocet	B	
116	Spotted Sandpiper	B	w
117	Solitary Sandpiper	b	
118	Greater Yellowlegs	t	w
119	Willet	B	
120	Lesser Yellowlegs	t	
121	Upland Sandpiper	B	
122	Whimbrel	t	
123	Long-billed Curlew	B	
124	Hudsonian Godwit	t	
125	Marbled Godwit	B	
126	Ruddy Turnstone	t	
127	*Black Turnstone*	t	
128	Red Knot	t	
129	Sanderling	t	
130	Semipalmated Sandpiper	t	
131	Western Sandpiper	t	
132	Least Sandpiper	t	
133	White-rumped Sandpiper	t	
134	Baird's Sandpiper	t	
135	Pectoral Sandpiper	t	
136	*Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*	t	
137	Dunlin	t	W
138	*Curlew Sandpiper*	t	
139	Stilt Sandpiper	t	
140	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	t	
141	Short-billed Dowitcher	t	
142	Long-billed Dowitcher	t	
143	Wilson's Snipe	B	W
144	*American Woodcock*	t	w
145	Wilson's Phalarope	B	
146	Red-necked Phalarope	t	
147	*Red Phalarope*	t	
148	*Black-legged Kittiwake*	t	w
149	Sabine's Gull	t	
150	Bonaparte's Gull	t	
151	*Little Gull*	t	
152	*Ross's Gull*	t	
153	*Laughing Gull*	t	
154	Franklin's Gull	B	
155	Mew Gull	t	W
156	Ring-billed Gull	B	W
157	California Gull	B	W
158	Herring Gull	B	W
159	Thayer's Gull	t	W
160	Iceland Gull	t	W
161	*Lesser Black-backed Gull*	t	
162	Glaucous-winged Gull	t	W
163	Glaucous Gull	t	W
164	*Great Black-backed Gull*	t	w
165	Least Tern	B	
166	Caspian Tern	B	
167	Black Tern	B	
168	Common Tern	B	
169	*Arctic Tern*	B	
170	Forster's Tern	B	
171	*Pomarine Jaeger*	t	
172	*Parasitic Jaeger*	t	
173	*Long-tailed Jaeger*	t	
174	*Long-billed Murrelet*	t	
175	*Ancient Murrelet*	t	w
176	Rock Pigeon	B	W
177	Band-tailed Pigeon	t	
178	Eurasian Collared-Dove	B	W
179	*White-winged Dove*	t	
180	Mourning Dove	B	W
181	*Inca Dove*	t	
182	*Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	b	
183	Black-billed Cuckoo	B	
184	Barn Owl	B	w
185	Flammulated Owl	B	w
186	Western Screech-Owl	B	w
187	Eastern Screech-Owl	B	W
188	Great Horned Owl	B	W
189	Snowy Owl	t	W
190	Northern Hawk Owl	B	W
191	Northern Pygmy-Owl	B	W
192	Burrowing Owl	B	w
193	Barred Owl	B	W
194	Great Gray Owl	B	W
195	Long-eared Owl	B	W
196	Short-eared Owl	B	W
197	Boreal Owl	B	W
198	Northern Saw-whet Owl	B	W
199	Common Nighthawk	B	
200	Common Poorwill	B	
201	*Whip-poor-will sp.*	t	
202	Black Swift	B	
203	Chimney Swift	B	
204	Vaux's Swift	B	
205	White-throated Swift	B	
206	*Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	B	
207	Black-chinned Hummingbird	B	
208	Anna's Hummingbird	t	W
209	*Costa's Hummingbird*	t	
210	Calliope Hummingbird	B	
211	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	B	
212	Rufous Hummingbird	B	
213	Belted Kingfisher	B	W
214	Lewis's Woodpecker	B	W
215	Red-headed Woodpecker	B	w
216	*Red-bellied Woodpecker*	t	
217	Williamson's Sapsucker	B	
218	*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	t	
219	Red-naped Sapsucker	B	w
220	Downy Woodpecker	B	W
221	Hairy Woodpecker	B	W
222	*White-headed Woodpecker*	t	w
223	American Three-toed Woodpecker	B	W
224	Black-backed Woodpecker	B	W
225	Northern Flicker	B	W
226	Pileated Woodpecker	B	W
227	Olive-sided Flycatcher	B	
228	Western Wood-Pewee	B	
229	*Eastern Wood-Pewee*	t	
230	*Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*	t	
231	Alder Flycatcher	b	
232	Willow Flycatcher	B	
233	Least Flycatcher	B	
234	Hammond's Flycatcher	B	
235	*Gray Flycatcher*	B	
236	Dusky Flycatcher	B	
237	Cordilleran Flycatcher	B	
238	*Eastern Phoebe*	t	w
239	Say's Phoebe	B	w
240	*Vermilion Flycatcher*		w
241	*Ash-throated Flycatcher*	t	
242	*Great Crested Flycatcher*	t	
243	Cassin's Kingbird	B	
244	Western Kingbird	B	w
245	Eastern Kingbird	B	

246	___	*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*	t	
247	___	Loggerhead Shrike	B	W
248	___	Northern Shrike	t	W
249	___	*White-eyed Vireo*	b	
250	___	*Yellow-throated Vireo*	b	
251	___	Plumbeous Vireo	B	
252	___	Cassin's Vireo	B	
253	___	Blue-headed Vireo	t	
254	___	Warbling Vireo	B	
255	___	Philadelphia Vireo	t	
256	___	Red-eyed Vireo	B	
257	___	Gray Jay	B	W
258	___	Pinyon Jay	B	W
259	___	Steller's Jay	B	W
260	___	Blue Jay	B	W
261	___	Western Scrub-Jay	t	W
262	___	Clark's Nutcracker	B	W
263	___	Black-billed Magpie	B	W
264	___	American Crow	B	W
265	___	Common Raven	B	W
266	___	Horned Lark	B	W
267	___	Purple Martin	B	
268	___	Tree Swallow	B	
269	___	Violet-green Swallow	B	
270	___	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	B	
271	___	Bank Swallow	B	
272	___	Cliff Swallow	B	
273	___	Barn Swallow	B	
274	___	Black-capped Chickadee	B	W
275	___	Mountain Chickadee	B	W
276	___	Chestnut-sided Chickadee	B	W
277	___	Boreal Chickadee	B	W
278	___	Red-breasted Nuthatch	B	W
279	___	White-breasted Nuthatch	B	W
280	___	Pygmy Nuthatch	B	W
281	___	Brown Creeper	B	W
282	___	Rock Wren	B	w
283	___	Canyon Wren	B	W
284	___	*Carolina Wren*	t	
285	___	*Bewick's Wren*	t	W
286	___	House Wren	B	w
287	___	Pacific Wren	B	W
288	___	*Winter Wren*	t	
289	___	*Sedge Wren*	B	
290	___	Marsh Wren	B	W
291	___	*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	B	
292	___	American Dipper	B	W
293	___	Golden-crowned Kinglet	B	W
294	___	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	B	W
295	___	Eastern Bluebird	B	W
296	___	Western Bluebird	B	w
297	___	Mountain Bluebird	B	w
298	___	Townsend's Solitaire	B	W
299	___	Veery	B	
300	___	*Gray-cheeked Thrush*	t	
301	___	Swainson's Thrush	B	
302	___	Hermit Thrush	B	w
303	___	*Wood Thrush*	t	
304	___	American Robin	B	W
305	___	Varied Thrush	B	W
306	___	Gray Catbird	B	w
307	___	Northern Mockingbird	B	W
308	___	Sage Thrasher	B	
309	___	Brown Thrasher	B	W
310	___	*Curve-billed Thrasher*	t	W
311	___	European Starling	B	W
312	___	*Siberian Accentor*	t	W
313	___	American Pipit	B	W
314	___	Sprague's Pipit	B	
315	___	Bohemian Waxwing	b	W
316	___	Cedar Waxwing	B	W
317	___	Lapland Longspur	t	W
318	___	Chestnut-collared Longspur	B	
319	___	*Smith's Longspur*	t	
320	___	McCown's Longspur	B	
321	___	Snow Bunting	t	W
322	___	Ovenbird	B	
323	___	Northern Waterthrush	B	
324	___	*Golden-winged Warbler*	t	
325	___	*Blue-winged Warbler*	t	
326	___	Black-and-White Warbler	B	
327	___	*Prothonotary Warbler*	t	
328	___	Tennessee Warbler	B	
329	___	Orange-crowned Warbler	B	
330	___	Nashville Warbler	B	
331	___	*Connecticut Warbler*	t	
332	___	MacGillivray's Warbler	B	
333	___	Mourning Warbler	t	
334	___	*Kentucky Warbler*	t	
335	___	Common Yellowthroat	B	w
336	___	*Hooded Warbler*	t	
337	___	American Redstart	B	
338	___	Cape May Warbler	t	
339	___	*Northern Parula*	t	
340	___	Magnolia Warbler	t	
341	___	*Bay-breasted Warbler*	t	
342	___	*Blackburnian Warbler*	t	
343	___	Yellow Warbler	B	
344	___	Chestnut-sided Warbler	t	
345	___	Blackpoll Warbler	t	
346	___	Black-throated Blue Warbler	t	w
347	___	Palm Warbler	t	w
348	___	*Pine Warbler*	t	
349	___	Yellow-rumped Warbler	B	W
350	___	*Yellow-throated Warbler*	t	W
351	___	*Prairie Warbler*	t	
352	___	*Black-throated Gray Warbler*	B	w
353	___	Townsend's Warbler	B	
354	___	*Black-throated Green Warbler*	t	
355	___	Canada Warbler	t	
356	___	Wilson's Warbler	B	
357	___	Painted Redstart	t	
358	___	Yellow-breasted Chat	B	
359	___	Green-tailed Towhee	B	W
360	___	Spotted Towhee	B	W
361	___	*Eastern Towhee*	t	
362	___	American Tree Sparrow	t	W
363	___	Chipping Sparrow	B	W
364	___	Clay-colored Sparrow	B	
365	___	Brewer's Sparrow	B	
366	___	Field Sparrow	B	
367	___	Vesper Sparrow	B	w
368	___	Lark Sparrow	B	
369	___	*Black-throated Sparrow*	t	
370	___	*Sage Sparrow*	B	
371	___	Lark Bunting	B	
372	___	Savannah Sparrow	B	w
373	___	Grasshopper Sparrow	B	
374	___	Baird's Sparrow	B	
375	___	Le Conte's Sparrow	B	w
376	___	Nelson's Sparrow	B	
377	___	Fox Sparrow	B	w
378	___	Song Sparrow	B	W
379	___	Lincoln's Sparrow	B	w
380	___	Swamp Sparrow	t	W
381	___	White-throated Sparrow	t	W
382	___	Harris's Sparrow	t	W
383	___	White-crowned Sparrow	B	W
384	___	*Golden-crowned Sparrow*	b	w
385	___	Dark-eyed Junco	B	W
386	___	*Summer Tanager*	t	
387	___	*Scarlet Tanager*	t	
388	___	Western Tanager	B	
389	___	*Northern Cardinal*	t	W
390	___	*Pyrrhuloxia*	t	
391	___	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	B	w
392	___	Black-headed Grosbeak	B	W
393	___	*Blue Grosbeak*	B	
394	___	Lazuli Bunting	B	
395	___	Indigo Bunting	b	
396	___	*Painted Bunting*	t	w
397	___	Dickcissel	B	
398	___	Bobolink	B	
399	___	Red-winged Blackbird	B	W
400	___	*Eastern Meadowlark*	t	
401	___	Western Meadowlark	B	W
402	___	Yellow-headed Blackbird	B	W
403	___	Rusty Blackbird	t	W
404	___	Brewer's Blackbird	B	W
405	___	Common Grackle	B	W
406	___	*Great-tailed Grackle*	b	
407	___	Brown-headed Cowbird	B	w
408	___	Orchard Oriole	B	
409	___	*Hooded Oriole*	t	
410	___	Bullock's Oriole	B	w
411	___	Baltimore Oriole	B	
412	___	*Brambling*	t	W
413	___	Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	B	W
414	___	Black Rosy-Finch	B	W
415	___	Pine Grosbeak	B	W
416	___	Purple Finch	t	W
417	___	Cassin's Finch	B	W
418	___	House Finch	B	W
419	___	Red Crossbill	B	W
420	___	White-winged Crossbill	b	W
421	___	Common Redpoll	t	W
422	___	Hoary Redpoll	t	W
423	___	Pine Siskin	B	W
424	___	Lesser Goldfinch	B	w
425	___	American Goldfinch	B	W
426	___	Evening Grosbeak	B	W
427	___	House Sparrow	B	W

This checklist is based on the Montana Bird Records Committee official list, available online at: **http://mtaudubon.org/birds/mbrc.html** and the Montana Bird Distribution Database, also available online at: **http://mtnhp.org/tracker**. This list can also be downloaded at: **http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/nongameCheckoff/birds.html** and **http://www.mtnhp.org/animal/**.

Montana Nongame Wildlife Checkoff

2012 MT Bird Distribution

This edition of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution* presents the most current information available on the distribution of birds in Montana, representing hundreds of thousands of observations reported by thousands of individuals across the state.

This edition:

- Presents breeding and wintering maps for 427 bird species.
- Introduces maps for 18 new species.
- Provides a state check-list of all species included in this edition in taxonomic order.
- Displays current, previous edition, and historical information on each breeding season map.
- Presents a list of rare birds for Montana (those species reported fewer than 20 times).
- Includes new travel maps to aid field observations.

To submit observations, investigate the records used to generate the maps in this book, and contribute to a better understanding of the birds of Montana, log online: http://mtnhp.org/observations.asp.

This book was produced by:

Montana Audubon
Montana Bird Records Committee
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Montana Natural Heritage Program

P. D. Skaar's

Montana Bird Distribution

Seventh Edition

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2012

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Table of Contents

Dedication iv
Foreword v
Acknowledgements vi

Introduction 1
- History of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution* 1
- Montana Bird Distribution Partnership 2
- Birds New to the 7th Edition 3
- Taxonomic Changes 3
- The Official Bird List for the State of Montana 4
- Latilongs, Quarter Latilongs, and Quarter-quarter Latilongs 5
- Montana Bird Distribution Database 6
- Montana Bird Distribution on the Internet 6

Interpreting the Maps 7
- Status Bars, Number of Records, and Species Status 9
- Codes and Criteria (B, b, t, W, and w) 10

Legend 12

Species Distribution Maps 13

Appendix A. Submission of New Records 173
Appendix B. Bird Observation Report Form 176
Appendix C. Rare Birds 177
Appendix D. Montana Rare Bird Report Form 179
Appendix E. Threatened (T), Endangered (E), Candidate Species (C), other Species of Concern (SOC), and Species of Interest (SI) 180
Appendix F. Subspecies 182
Appendix G. Introduced Species 183
Appendix H. Hypothetical Records 184
Appendix I. Extinct Species 185
Appendix J. A Summary of Bird Record Information by Latilong 185
Appendix K. Why Bird Distribution Information is Important 186
Appendix L. Contributors to this Edition 190
Appendix M. Checklist of Birds of Montana 192

References 195

Index 196

Notes 200

Travel Maps 201

Dedication

Don Stoecker

Don Stoecker was born in 1933 and grew up during the Depression. His parents moved often in search of work and most of Don's childhood was spent on small farms in California and Louisiana. During those years, Don developed an appreciation for nature and hard work. After serving in the Navy from 1953 to 1961, he moved to Montana and worked as a farm laborer in the Big Hole and Georgetown Lake areas until he retired in 1995.

During his time as a ranch-hand Don developed his interest in birds. In order to follow his passion, upon retirement he took to a life on the road, living out of his self-contained "home on wheels" van, a mobile library of bird books and references. His license plate "Birder" attested to the focus of his pursuits. Don was the first person to develop a bird list for the "Settling Ponds" as they were then known, now the Warm Springs Wildlife Management Area near Anaconda. He also developed the first published bird checklist for the Deer Lodge National Forest, taught adult education classes in Deer Lodge and Anaconda on birding, and together with a few other interested folks in the Butte and Dillon areas, helped to establish the Pintler Audubon Society. In addition to his bird work in southwestern Montana, Don also felt it was important to gather bird observations throughout the state. As a result, he contributed thousands of records from across Montana for earlier editions of *P.D. Skaar's Montana Bird Distribution*.

When summer birds migrated south for the winter, so did Don. In his retirement, he would leave Montana in his van by late September and spend winters as a volunteer in National Wildlife Refuges in Texas, Arizona, and California. Don relished the opportunity to do helpful manual labor and guide folks on bird walks. In 2009, Don found he was not well enough to travel; he is now in a retirement center in Deer Lodge.

Don was not a formally trained ornithologist, but an avid and enthusiastic self-taught birder. His interests propelled him across thousands of miles and prompted him to record hundreds of pages of handwritten observation notes. Don combined his love for birds and people to become a significant citizen scientist who gathered thousands of records in out-of-the-way places. In 2005, he was recognized for his efforts with a Lifetime Achievement award from Montana Audubon. Don is a great example of a common man who made a positive, lasting contribution toward understanding birds and their distributions in Montana.

Foreword

The periodic publication of *Montana Bird Distribution* has provided birders and conservationists direct access to the state of our knowledge of bird distribution for more than three decades. This 7th edition, representing the cumulative efforts of thousands of amateur birders and professional ornithologists across the state, gives us insight not only to the changing distribution of birds, but the extraordinary growth in our ability to capture knowledge. In his forward to the Sixth Edition, Jeff Marks referred to the "mind-boggling" increase of 39,000 bird records that were entered between the fifth and sixth editions. This edition includes more than *800,000 new records*, and soon the Montana Bird Distribution (MBD) database will break the one million record barrier! This is a testament not only to the diligence of the Natural Heritage Program staff and MBD partners in incorporating additional agency and volunteer datasets (e.g., the Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey, and colonial waterbird surveys), but also to the nature of birding in the information age.

Online data entry, social networks, handheld data devices with GPS and bird apps, and digital cameras have greatly increased the quantity and quality of distribution data submitted by amateur birders. We now have a data entry web portal, the Montana's Outdoor Birding Group (MOB-Montana) listserv with more than 500 members, more than 250 eBird users registered in the state, and a continually growing base of informed and engaged amateur naturalists. More than 2,700 people contributed new records to this edition; there are 85 individuals with more than 1,000 records, and four with more than 10,000. This 7th edition is nothing short of an amazing team effort.

This book includes 15 new species to the Official State Bird List since the 6th edition, including unexpected vagrants from afar (e.g., Manx Shearwater, Siberian Accentor, Ross's Gull), as well as species from the Montana Bird Records Committee's hypothetical list added because of new records (e.g., Glossy Ibis, Iceland Gull). Eight new species have been confirmed breeding in the state (e.g. Gray Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Ovenbird), and 11 species have been newly confirmed as winter visitors (e.g., Eastern Bluebird, Bewick's Wren). The Eurasian Collared-Dove, reported just five times as of the 6th edition, is now a confirmed breeder and a year-round resident statewide. The Montana Bird Records Committee has dropped documentation requirements for this and at least seven other species formerly considered rare (e.g., Thayer's Gull, Lesser Goldfinch).

But let us not take it for granted that we know all we need to know. Confirmed breeding (B) records are still scarce or lacking for many species, even for some with a long history of suspected or probable breeding (b) records in the state (e.g., Alder Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-winged Crossbill). There are still gaps in our knowledge in those places visited infrequently, particularly during winter. Browsing the maps will help you see where your own time in the field can help fill these gaps. And as we move forward, one thing is certain: bird populations and communities will respond as our human population continues to grow, and as climate and land use changes alter the Montana landscape. You and I have the opportunity to track these changes to better inform conservation and management and to continually refine our knowledge of (and connection to) Montana's avian riches.

It has taken more than the expected five years to produce this edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*. I think you will agree with me that it has been well worth the wait. I hope that having this edition in our glove box or daypack, next to our computer, and in our classroom will continue to inspire us to explore, look closely, and share our experiences.

Dan Casey
Northern Rockies Bird Conservation Region Coordinator, American Bird Conservancy
Chair, Montana Bird Records Committee

Acknowledgements

The Montana Bird Distribution Committee is responsible for the production of this edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*. Members include Amy Cilimburg, Coburn Currier, Janet Ellis, Paul Hendricks, Susan Lenard, Bryce Maxell, Scott Story, Dan Sullivan, and Catherine Wightman.

The Montana Bird Records Committee reviewed rare bird sightings and provided advice and comment on a number of issues for this edition. The Records Committee is currently comprised of Dan Casey, Chuck Carlson, John Carlson, Coburn Currier, Nate Kohler, Rose Leach, Harriet Marble, Jeff Marks, Bob Martinka, Ted Nordhagen, Fritz Prellwitz, Mike Schwitters, and Dan Sullivan. We also thank past members Bob Eng and Terry McEneaney for their contributions since the last edition of this book. Thanks to the committee for its continuing efforts and dedication to a better understanding of Montana birds.

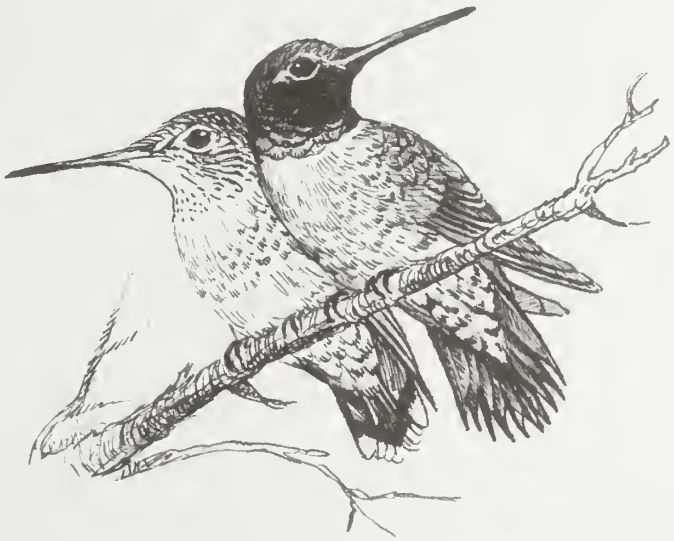
We are grateful to the thousands of contributors who submitted hundreds of thousands of recent records to make this edition possible (see Appendix L). Jock Young, Dick Hutto, and Kristina Smucker contributed data from the University of Montana Landbird Monitoring Program. Brian Sullivan of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology arranged the contribution of data from eBird. Denver Holt contributed data from the Owl Research Institute. Thousands of records have also been added from the U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Surveys; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Bald Eagle, Waterbird, Common Loon, and Lek Surveys; National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Shorebird Surveys; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Marsh Bird Surveys; Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory surveys; and numerous other federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental efforts on behalf of birds and their distributions in Montana.

Thank you to Montana Natural Heritage Program employees Scott Blum and Martin Miller for entering records and answering data requests; Karen Coleman and Dave Ratz for maintaining the database structure and various internet interfaces; and past employees Dan Bachen, Alexis McEwan, and Kathy Martin for their work on records entry. Past and current Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff Steve Carson, Emily Dixon, Andrew Jakes, Adam Messer, and Adam Petersen all contributed to entering records into the MBD database. A special thank you is extended to Dr. Kim Scott, Archivist at the Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections at Montana State University Library, for allowing us to photograph P.D. Skaar's original records. Thanks also to Cedron Jones and Dan Sullivan for entering data. Gary Swant drafted the dedication and provided the photograph of Don's license plate; Jack Kirkley edited the dedication and provided additional background information. Jeff Marks edited this edition.

Financial support for this edition came with the cooperation of the following individuals and organizations: Bill Kitterman Audubon Endowment Fund and the Audubon Wildlife Fund of Montana (Montana Audubon); Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (Wildlife Tax Checkoff); Bitterroot Audubon Society; Bureau of Indian Affairs (Jarvis Gust); Bureau of Land Management (John Carlson); Bureau of Reclamation (Jeff Baumberger/Justin Kucera); Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation & Conservation (Dale Becker); Five Valleys Audubon Society; Flathead Audubon Society; Glacier National Park Fund (Merry Lynn Southers/Jane Ratzlaff); Intermountain West Joint Venture (Dave Smith); Last Chance Audubon Society; Mission Mountain Audubon Society; Montana Audubon; Montana Natural Heritage Program; MPG Ranch; National Park Service (Lisa Bate/Mark Biel); The Nature Conservancy (Kat Imhoff); Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (Ken Sambor); Northwestern Energy (Sam Milodragovich); Pintler Audubon Society; Plum Creek Foundation; Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (Casey Stemler); Sacajawea Audubon Society in memory of Margaret Hileman; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Shawn Sartorius); U.S. Forest

Service - Region 1 (Beth Hahn); Upper Missouri Breaks Audubon Society; Westech Environmental Services, Inc. (Pat Farmer); Western Area Power Administration (Lou Hanebury); and Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society. The Bill Kitterman Audubon Endowment Fund, located at the Montana Community Foundation, is a permanent endowment dedicated to supporting Audubon's Montana Bird Distribution program. For more information about making contributions to this fund, contact Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624, 406-443-3949.

The work of 12 artists appears in this publication. Their generosity, time, and talent have significantly improved the book's appearance. **Andrew Guttenburg:** Lewis's Woodpecker, cover; Yellow Rail, p. 49; White-throated Swift, p. 86; Northern Shrike, p. 102; Wilson's Warbler, p. 143; Red Crossbill, p. 168, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, p. 181. **Sharon Browder:** Yellow-headed Blackbird, p. 161. **John Carlson:** Rough-legged Hawk, p. 200. **Marsha Davis:** Downy Woodpecker, p. 198; Evening Grosbeak, p. 170. **Sid Frissell:** Great Blue Heron, p. 37; Northern Flicker, p. 94. **Ron Jenkins:** Cooper's Hawk, p. 43; Wilson's Snipe, p. 64; Great Horned Owl, pp. 80 and 172; Black-chinned Hummingbird, p. vii; Bullock's Oriole, p. 164. **James Jokerst:** Downy Woodpecker, p. 92; American Dipper, p. 119. **Phyllis Kober:** Green-winged Teal, p. 20; Dusky Grouse, p. 30; Whimbrel, p. 57; Bonaparte's Gull, p. 67; Black-billed Cuckoo, p. 78; Gray Jay, p. 106; Chestnut-collared Longspur, p. 128; Field Sparrow, p. 147, Northern Hawk Owl, p. 194. **Jerry Kustich:** Red-necked Grebe, p. 4; Killdeer, p. 53; American Tree Sparrow, p. 145. **Susan Lenard:** House Wren, p. 117; Black-and-white Warbler, p. 131. **Jan Metzmaker:** Canada Goose, p. 15; Wood Duck, p. ii; Common Loon, p. 32; Osprey, p. 41; Calliope Hummingbird, pp. 88 and 190; Black-capped Chickadee, p. 112; Yellow Warbler, p. 137. We also used the Common Tern illustration (p. 73) from an anonymous artist. We appreciate the use of their illustration although they are not specifically identified. We also thank DD Dowden for her book cover design.



Introduction

This publication is a summary of observation records of all birds currently found on Montana's Official State Bird List, with maps indicating breeding, migration, and wintering distribution areas for each species. The species are listed in taxonomic order. The maps portray the data contained in the database and do not presume to be a complete representation of the distribution of all species across the state. Instead, they provide a picture of where birds have been seen and reported. Two maps appear for each bird species, one representing observations made during the breeding season, the other representing observations recorded during the wintering season.

This book, as well as Montana's official state bird list, currently has:

- 427 species recorded for the state;
- 260 confirmed breeders; and
- 233 species reported during winter.

Of these, 104 bird species are considered rare in the state, which generally means that they have been recorded fewer than 20 times in Montana (Appendix C). An additional 11 species are of hypothetical occurrence (Appendix H) and may make their way into future editions of this book. One species is known extinct in Montana (Appendix I).

For the first time, this book includes "status bars" for each bird species, a graph showing the relative number of bird observations recorded for each species for each month of the year.

Montana's size and diverse topography, ecology, and climate all contribute to the great variety and abundance of birds across the state. Distribution and abundance of the avifauna, however, is affected by increases in Montana's human population and changes in the Montana landscape. Some generalist species, those that tend to thrive in human-altered landscapes, are exhibiting population increases and associated range expansions. Specialized species such as Mountain Plover and Yellow-billed Cuckoo that require specific habitats have been negatively affected by human development. Alteration of their natural habitat reduces the ability of these birds to survive and reproduce, ultimately making them increasingly rare. Gathering more complete information about the distribution of birds across Montana can help us gain a better understanding of human impacts on the landscape and can contribute to more successful conservation efforts.

Everyone's submissions of bird observations can help bird conservation in Montana. By submitting bird observations to the MBD database, each of us is ensuring that the best source of reliable, objective information about the status and distribution of bird species found in Montana stays current over time. For more information on submitting new records to the database, see Appendix A; for information on why bird distribution information is important, see Appendix K.

History of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution*

This book bears the name of Dr. Palmer David Skaar (1923-1983), who arrived in Montana in 1957 to join the faculty of Montana State College (now Montana State University). Although his professional field was microbial genetics, Dr. Skaar did more to further the study of Montana birds than any other individual since Aretas A. Saunders published *A Distributional List of the Birds of Montana* in 1921. Dr. Skaar's contagious enthusiasm and his involvement in the study of Montana bird distribution earned him great respect throughout the state.

The maps in this book use a unit of area called a "latilong," which represents the rectangular area of land formed by the intersection of latitude and longitude mapping lines (see Latilongs, Quarter Latilongs, and Quarter-quarter Latilongs, page 5). Having pioneered the latilong concept to depict animal distribution, Dr. Skaar's definitive *Birds of the Bozeman Latilong*, published in 1969, is a model regional bird account. The influence of his first edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*, published in 1975, was tremendous. It motivated volunteers and professionals across the state, and resulted in careful ornithological scrutiny of vast areas of Montana that had never before been studied. Since the publication of the first edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*, several classes of animals in other states have been mapped using the latilong system. In addition, the annual Breeding Bird Surveys coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey and Canadian Wildlife Service use this system.

Dr. Skaar published the 2nd edition of *Montana Bird Distribution* in 1980. The 3rd edition was published in 1985 by his son, Don Skaar, Dennis Flath, and Larry Thompson (Skaar et al. 1985). The 4th edition appeared in March 1992 (Bergeron et al. 1992), with two innovations. First, it introduced quarter latilongs to better define species' distributions. Second, and more significantly, the maps in the 4th edition were generated from a database of distribution records. The 5th (Montana Bird Distribution Committee 1996) and 6th editions (Lenard et al. 2003) also used this database to generate distribution maps (see Montana Bird Distribution Database, page 6). The 5th edition included subspecies maps for a few selected species (e.g., Dark-eyed Junco), as well as information on the number of sightings reported for each species since the previous edition. The 6th edition (Lenard et al. 2003) introduced color-coded species maps, showing bird observations for three timeframes.

Each update of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution* is cumulative, adding new bird records to those documented historically. Recently, 12 boxes of Dr. Skaar's personal records, accumulated observations, correspondence, and notes were deposited in the Special Collections department of the Montana State University Library and made available to the Montana Bird Distribution Committee. This ornithological archive provided valuable details concerning specific location, date, and observer information of historical observations. It also added many previously unknown records for this edition. Thus, this 7th edition is, in the truest sense, one of Dr. Skaar's ongoing legacies. Future editions will continue as a direct result of his inspirational and visionary efforts.

Montana Bird Distribution Partnership

The Montana Bird Distribution Partnership, comprised of Montana Audubon, the Montana Bird Records Committee, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Montana Natural Heritage Program, oversees the Montana Bird Distribution database and its associated products. These organizations have been collaborating informally since 1991, and under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) since 2007. The main goal of the MBD partnership is to track the distribution of all bird species in the state over time in order to promote the stewardship of bird species and their habitats. The partnership does this by: (1) facilitating the collection of high quality observation records by both professional and non-professional birders; (2) maintaining records in a high quality, accurate, and comprehensive database; and (3) providing meaningful access to bird distribution information. Products of the partnership include *Montana Bird Distribution,* created by the MBD Committee, as well as web-based information sources such as the Montana Field Guide, Natural Heritage Tracker, Natural Heritage MapViewer, Montana Audubon web pages, and Montana Bird Record Committee web pages.

Birds New to the 7th Edition

In the nine years since the 6th edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*, 18 new species have been added to Montana's official checklist. These include 15 species never before documented in the state and three species added because of a taxonomic change. The new species are: Cackling Goose (a split from Canada Goose), Tufted Duck, Manx Shearwater, Glossy Ibis, White-tailed Kite, Crested Caracara, Ross's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Long-billed Murrelet (a split from Ancient Murrelet), Inca Dove, Carolina Wren, Pacific Wren (a split from Winter Wren), Curve-billed Thrasher, Siberian Accentor, Blue-winged Warbler, Eastern Towhee, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Confirmed breeding (represented by a "B" on the maps) has been recorded for the first time in eight species: Eurasian Collared-Dove, Gray Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Purple Martin, Ovenbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, and Lesser Goldfinch. The breeding Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a male bird attending a nest and paired with a female Black-headed Grosbeak. Also, 11 species have been reported during "winter" (represented by a "w" or "W" on the maps) for the first time: Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Surf Scoter, Greater Yellowlegs, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Western Scrub-Jay, Bewick's Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Taxonomic Changes

All common and scientific names, as well as taxonomic sequences, follow the seventh edition of the *Check-list of North American Birds* (AOU 1998) and all supplements to the check-list published through 2011 (AOU 2011).

Prior to the publication of the 6th edition of *Montana Bird Distribution*, the AOU began producing annual supplements to the *Check-list of North American Birds*. The frequency with which taxonomic changes were occurring demanded a quicker response from the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature. This frequency is evident in the significant and numerous taxonomic changes appearing in this edition of *MBD*. Some of the most significant taxonomic changes affecting this book include:

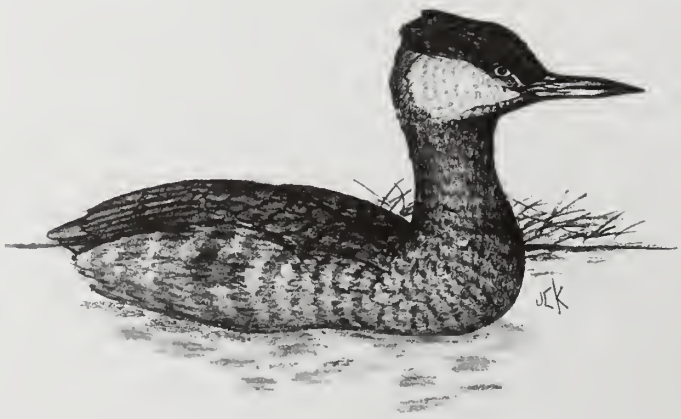
- The Anseriformes (Ducks, geese, and swans) and the Galliformes (Grouse and pheasants) were moved in front of the Gaviiformes (Loons).
- The common name of the Rock Dove became Rock Pigeon.
- The Three-toed Woodpecker became the American Three-toed Woodpecker, and its Latin name changed from *Picoides tridactylus* to *Picoides dorsalis*.
- The Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) was elevated to species status after splitting from the Canada Goose.
- The Blue Grouse was split into two species, the coastal Sooty Grouse and the interior Dusky Grouse (the Latin name of Dusky Grouse remains *Dendragapus obscurus*).
- The common name of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow changed to Nelson's Sparrow.
- The Winter Wren was split into three species, two of which, the Pacific Wren (*Troglodytes pacificus*) and Winter Wren (*Troglodytes hiemalis*), occur in Montana.
- The Common Moorhen was split into two species, Common Moorhen (Old World) and Common Gallinule (New World). The scientific name of Common Gallinule changed from *Gallinula chloropus* to *Gallinula galeata*.
- Many changes occurred within the Parulidae (wood-warblers), including generic reassignments and taxonomic sequence changes.

For a complete list of all taxonomic changes between the 6th and 7th Edition of *MBD*, visit http://www.mtaudubon.org/birds/distribution.html.

The Official Bird List for the State of Montana

Montana's official state bird list is maintained by the Montana Bird Records Committee (MBRC). Because birders play a critical role in furthering our understanding of bird distributions in the state, it is important to have rigorous review of bird records to maintain a meaningful list of Montana birds. Consequently, the MBRC reviews documentation submitted for species new to the state or of sufficient rarity (locally, regionally, or statewide). Observations for these species require a Rare Bird Report Form (found in Appendix D). This review occurs in order to provide an objective opinion on the validity of reports of unusual species, or species presence during unusual times of the year, by a panel of professional and non-professional expert birders. Rare bird reports are evaluated by the MBRC before the observations can be entered into the MBD database. For a list of rare birds reviewed by the MBRC, including regional exceptions for reporting requirements, see Appendix C. Based on records evaluated through January 2012, the state list stands at 427 species (Appendix M).

In addition to reviewing rare bird records, the MBRC reviews information on introduced species, with specific requirements that must be met before a species is considered established and placed on the official state bird list. For this reason, neither Northern Bobwhite nor California Quail is currently on Montana's official state bird list (see Appendix G). The MBRC also maintains a list of Hypothetical Records (also known as the Supplemental Bird List) (see Appendix H). This list contains: (1) species reported by a single observer only (with no photo or specimen); (2) species for which only one independent write-up was received even though multiple observers were present; and (3) species of uncertain origin that may have escaped captivity. These species are not yet on the official state list.



Latilongs, Quarter Latilongs, and Quarter-Quarter Latilongs

The maps in this book are the outline of Montana, with a grid pattern overlaying the state in units called **latilongs** and **quarter latilongs**. The back cover of this book illustrates this grid pattern and how the latilong system is positioned across the state. Montana is divided into 49 latilongs, 185 quarter latilongs, and more than 700 quarter-quarter latilongs (a unit for which data is collected, but because of their small size, are not shown in this book). The Travel Maps, found on pages 200 to 207 depict latilongs, quarter latilongs, and quarter-quarter latilongs.

Latilongs (LL) are assigned a number, 1 through 49, starting at the northwest corner of the state. The average dimension of each latilong is 47 miles (76 km) wide and 69 miles (111 km) long, representing an average area of approximately 3,200 square miles (8,436 sq. km). Because of the earth's curvature, latilongs along the Canadian border are 5.4 percent smaller than those along the Wyoming border. Latilongs 48 and 49 cover only small portions of southwestern Montana.

Quarter Latilongs (QLL) are created by evenly dividing each latilong unit into four quarters. Each quarter latilong is identified by its associated latilong number, with the addition of a letter (A, B, C, or D), ordered left to right and from top to bottom (see Figure 1). Thus, latilong 19 is broken into 4 QLLs: 19A, 19B, 19C, and 19D. QLLs cover an area roughly 24 miles (38 km) by 35 miles (56 km).

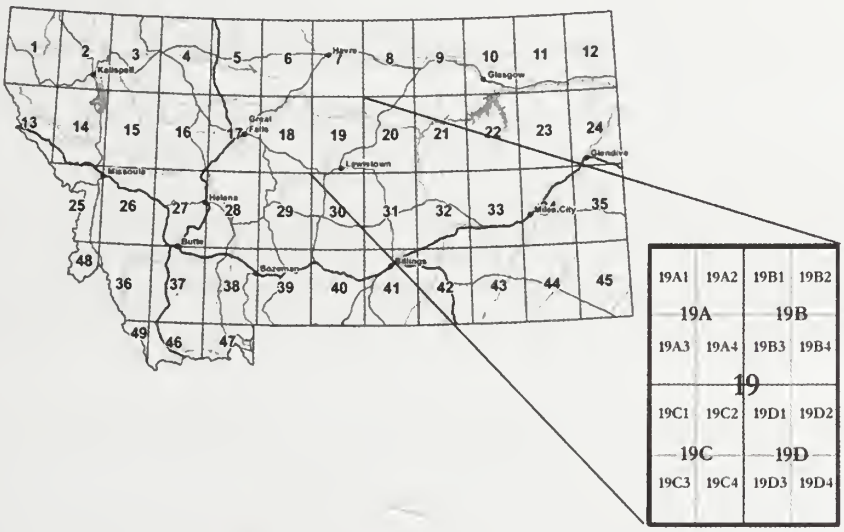


Figure 1. Quarter latilongs are created by dividing each latilong unit into four quarters; quarter-quarter latilongs by dividing each quarter latilong into four quarters.

Quarter-Quarter Latilongs (QQLL) are a further subdivision of quarter latilongs. Although QQLLs are too detailed for presentation in this publication, records in the MBD database include a QQLL designation if the original report has detailed location information allowing this to be determined. QQLLs are created by evenly dividing each quarter latilong into four quarters. Each QQLL is identified by its associated LL number and QLL letter in the same manner as for QLLs, with the addition of a number (1, 2, 3, or 4), ordered left to right and from top to bottom. Thus, latilong 19 is divided into 16 QQLLs: 19A1, 19A2, 19A3, 19A4, 19B1, etc. QQLLs cover an area roughly 12 miles (19 km) by 17 miles (28 km). Montana Audubon is sponsoring an "adopt a QQLL" program to gain a more complete picture of the bird species found in specific areas. For more information on this program, visit http://www.mtaudubon.org/birds/distributionQQLL.html.

Montana Bird Distribution Database

The MBD database contains observation records for the birds of Montana submitted by organizations, agencies, and volunteer contributors from across the state. Starting in 1991, observations were entered into an electronic database housed at the Montana Natural Heritage Program in the Montana State Library in Helena. Since then the database has become quite complex in order to deal with a wide variety of survey information and to power a number of web applications (see Montana Bird Distribution on the Internet below).

The number of observations in the database has grown dramatically since its inception, resulting from increased electronic storage and processing capabilities. This has made it possible to handle large data sets of standardized surveys from the Breeding Bird Survey, Christmas Bird Count, and Avian Science Center (Missoula), among others. As of 13 March 2012, there were 871,511 records in the database. These are from 78,300 unique locations across Montana, with anywhere from 1 to 3,358 records associated with individual locations. For a summary of the (1) total number of bird species that have been reported in each latilong, and (2) the total number of bird records in the MBD database for each latilong, see Appendix J.

Montana Bird Distribution on the Internet

A number of excellent internet resources are available to individuals interested in learning more about bird distribution and/or birding in Montana. Links to these resources can be found at: http://mtaudubon.org/birds/resources.html.

The following websites are based on the MBD database and are updated daily:

Montana Field Guide: Perhaps the easiest way to access a variety of information on individual species known to occur in Montana is through the Montana Field Guide http://fieldguide.mt.gov/. Individual bird species accounts on this site provide photos, bird calls, range maps, natural history information, habitat use and associations, food habits, and more. The accounts also include daily updated maps and charts compatible with the maps found in this book.

Natural Heritage MapViewer and Tracker websites: Individuals interested in more specific information about the distribution of birds in the state should use the Natural Heritage MapViewer http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/ and/or Natural Heritage Tracker http://mtnhp.org/tracker/ websites. These interactive websites allow users to submit their observations electronically, as well as perform individual tailored searches of the records. These searches could, for example, answer such questions as: which species occur in the Miles City area; what is the current distribution of the Indigo Bunting in Montana; how many times, and where, has the American Bittern been reported since 2003; and what species are reported as breeding during the month of July in the Polson area? Individuals may also query the database by species, breeding or wintering status, location (LL, QLL, or QQLL), month, year, and more. Tutorials on the use of either of these websites can be found at http://mtnhp.org/webinars/ or under the Help menus.

Interpreting the Maps

The maps on the following pages indicate the distribution of birds based upon observations made during two distinct seasons:

- BREEDING SEASON (16 February to 14 December, which includes spring and fall migrations for many species); and

- WINTERING SEASON (15 December to 15 February).

The breeding-season maps are the larger maps located to the right on each page; the wintering-season maps are found on the left.

The letter displayed in each of the QLL blocks describes the status of the bird species observed in that particular QLL. The status shows whether the species recorded for that QLL exhibited behavior indicating "breeding," "indirect evidence of breeding," "no evidence of breeding (transient)," "wintering," or was "observed at least once during the wintering season." The status of bird observations is indicated by a lettered symbol:

B = direct evidence of breeding
b = indirect evidence of breeding
t = no evidence of breeding
W = overwintering
w = seen during winter, but not confirmed as overwintering

More complete definitions for B, b, t, W, and w can be found under Codes and Criteria (B, b, t, W, and w) on page 10. As of 13 March 2012, the database contained the following number of records: **B** = 29,338; **b** = 545,974; W = 3,697; **w** = 53,911; and **t** = 238,591 (total records 871,511).

Breeding-Season Maps

The breeding maps in this book depict data in three different time frames:

- "New" observations (2003-2011) represented by a symbol (B, b, or t) in the center of each block.*

- "Previous" observations (1991-2002) represented by the background color in each block (B=dark gray, b=light green, t=yellow).*

- "Historical" observations (data prior to 1991) represented by solid gray in LL blocks and as hatching in QLL blocks. The solid gray or hatch marks do ***not*** denote status of the observations: direct evidence of breeding, indirect evidence of breeding, or transient (B, b, or t). Instead, they simply indicate an observation of this species prior to 1991, but not since. This information is provided to help understand where birds were seen historically, but have not been reported for the past twenty years.*

The symbol within each quarter latilong rectangle displays the highest documented status for that species for that quarter latilong ("B" higher than "b" higher than "t"). Different from the previous editions, observations with transient ("t") status are represented by the color yellow, rather than gray.

Wintering-Season Maps

The wintering maps are smaller in size. In order for them to be readable, the data are presented in latilong blocks. As with the breeding maps, the symbol within each latilong rectangle displays the highest documented status for that species for that latilong ("W" is higher than "w"). The wintering maps in this book depict data in two different time frames:

- "New" observations (2003-2011) are represented by a symbol (W or w) in the center of each block.*
- "Previous edition" observations (historical to 2002) are represented by the background color in each block (W=darker blue, w=lighter blue).*

*** For an explanation of map colors and symbols see Figure 2 below and pages 10 and 11.**

Note: Readers with an interest in specific information on observations, new and historical, should visit the MBD website and investigate the database by performing their own customized searches. For historical records, readers may also refer to previous editions of P.D. Skaar's *Montana Bird Distribution.*

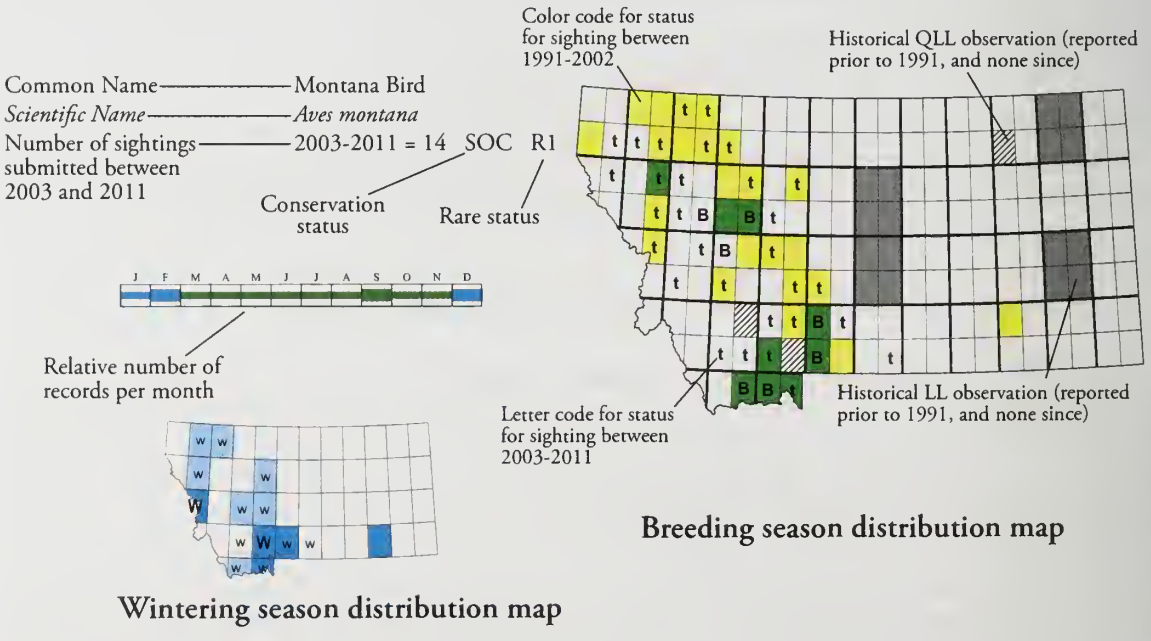

Common Name—Montana Bird
Scientific Name—Aves montana
Number of sightings submitted between 2003 and 2011—2003-2011 = 14 SOC R1
Conservation status
Rare status
J F M A M J J A S O N D
Relative number of records per month
Color code for status for sighting between 1991-2002
Historical QLL observation (reported prior to 1991, and none since)
Historical LL observation (reported prior to 1991, and none since)
Letter code for status for sighting between 2003-2011
Wintering season distribution map
Breeding season distribution map

Figure 2. Example of Distribution Maps and Status Bar.

Status Bars, Number of Records, and Species Status

For the first time in *MBD*, status bars appear for each species. These box-plot graphs show the relative number of records for each month (January through December). Records are identified for two seasons (breeding and wintering). Four separate categories for number of observations per month are defined: 1-4 records per month (thinnest line), 5-20 records, 21-75 records, to more than 75 records (thickest line). For a few rare birds, such as Western Scrub-Jay and Carolina Wren, where the bird was observed for more than one month, all months of occurrence are shown even though the total record count for 2003-2011 equals one. Observations from December through February are shown in blue; observations from March through November are shown in green, with colors generally corresponding to the winter and breeding season maps.

The number of records and status of each species are provided on the lines beneath the species name. Symbols and their definitions are explained below.

2003-2011 = Total number of observations reported for this species in the last nine years, 2003 - 2011

T E C Threatened (T), Endangered (E), or Candidate (C) species under the federal Endangered Species Act (Appendix E)

SOC Species of Concern. These species have been identified by the Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Park as Montana Species of Concern because they are at risk owing to declining population trends, threats to their habitats, restricted distribution, and/or other factors. (For more information, see Appendix E)

SI Species of Interest. Because of specific circumstances, supplemental information is requested for these species. (For a complete list of SI species, see Appendix E)

R1, R2, R3 Rare species status. Rare species are those based on fewer than 20 documented observations for the state (R1; most species), regularly observed in a very localized part of the state but fewer than 20 records outside that area (R2; e.g. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher), and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (R3) with more than 30 records, but few in recent decades (For more complete definitions, see Appendix C)

Codes and Criteria (B, b, t, W, and w)

The lettered symbols are defined as follows:

BREEDING SEASON (16 February – 14 December)

For observations of birds during the breeding season, the letters "B," "b," or "t" are used to indicate the bird's breeding status.

"B" DIRECT EVIDENCE OF BREEDING

"B" is used to indicate direct evidence of breeding: evidence that eggs or young have been produced.

Breeding is not assumed simply by the presence of adults, singing and territorial behavior, copulation, or nest-building. "B" is used only if one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. **Occupied nest** - adult attending a nest with eggs or nestlings (incubating or brooding), or adults entering or leaving nest site in circumstances indicating an occupied nest (includes high nests or cavities, the contents of which cannot be seen).
2. **Recently fledged young** (of altricial species) **incapable of sustained flight or downy young** (of precocial species) **restricted to the area by dependence on adults or limited mobility.**
3. **Adults attending young** - adult feeding recently fledged young or carrying food for young, or adult carrying fecal sac.
4. **Nest with egg(s) that can be clearly identified.** The presence of cowbird eggs or young is confirmation of breeding for both cowbird and host species.
5. **Used nest with eggshell, or just eggshell found** (identification must be convincing for such records to be accepted, and cannot be based on the nest alone).

NOTE: Records of direct evidence of breeding ("B") are only accepted when at least one of the five criteria listed above is observed and information for a "B" designation is included in the Comments section of the Report Form. If no supporting information is given, the record will be designated a "b" (see following).

"b" INDIRECT or CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF BREEDING

"b" is used to indicate indirect evidence of breeding. This status applies if one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. **Singing males or territorial birds observed in suitable nesting habitat during the breeding season.**
2. **Courtship behavior or copulation.**
3. **Adults visiting a probable nest site.**
4. **Agitation behavior, distraction display, feigning injury, or anxiety call from an adult.**
5. **Nest building.**
6. **Physiological evidence of breeding** (incubation patch or egg in oviduct) **based on bird in hand.**
7. **Independent young of the year unaccompanied by adult** (for non-migratory species or prior to normal migration).

"t" NO EVIDENCE OF BREEDING, NO BREEDING BEHAVIOR

"t" is used to indicate presence of any species (resident, migrant, or transient) that exhibits no breeding behavior at the time observed.

Behavioral activities that do not fit "B" or "b" should be considered "t." See "B" and "b" above to determine if a behavior constitutes direct or indirect evidence of breeding.

WINTERING SEASON (15 December - 15 February)

For observations of birds during the wintering season, the letters "W" or "w" are used to indicate wintering status.

"W" OVERWINTERING

"W" is used to indicate regular observations of the species during the winter period.

Regular is defined as at least 3 days between 15 December and 14 January and 3 days between 15 January and 15 February. "W" can be documented two ways: (1) an individual observer submits data with dates for when the bird was observed during the winter months, following the above criteria, or (2) multiple "w" records in the MBD database for the same LL and from the same winter season are used to generate a "W", following the above date criteria. (Individuals submitting data need to include the dates for which the bird was observed during the winter months, 15 December – 15 February, in the Comments section of the Report Form.

"w" OBSERVED DURING WINTER SEASON, but NOT confirmed OVERWINTERING

"w" is used to indicate that the species was observed at least once between 15 December and 15 February, but not regularly during the winter season.

Legend

BREEDING SEASON (16 February through 14 December)

Direct evidence of successful breeding / evidence of young:

B — Observation records between 2003-2011 are represented with the capital letter B.

Observation records between 1991-2002 are represented as the dark green background in each QLL block.

Indirect or circumstantial evidence of breeding:

b — Observation records between 2003-2011 are represented with the lower letter b.

Observation records between 1991-2002 are represented as the light green background in each QLL block.

No evidence of breeding, no breeding behavior

t — Observation records between 2003-2011 are represented with the lower letter t.

Observation records between 1991-2002 are represented as the yellow background in each QLL block.

Historical Information:

Observation records prior to 1991 and not since are represented as the gray background in each LL block, unless mapping can be assigned accurately to the QLL block (see below). No specific breeding status is inferred.

Observation records prior to 1991 and not since, and that can be accurately identified to the QLL block, are represented with gray hatching. No specific breeding status is inferred.

WINTERING SEASON (15 December through 15 February)

Overwintering; regular sightings:

W — Observation records between 2003-2011 are represented with the capital letter W.

Observation records prior to 2003 are represented as dark blue in each LL block.

Not confirmed as overwintering but observed during wintering season:

w — Observation records between 2003-2011 are represented with the lower letter w.

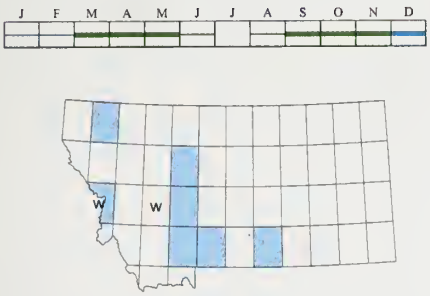
Observation records prior to 2003 are represented as light blue in each LL block.

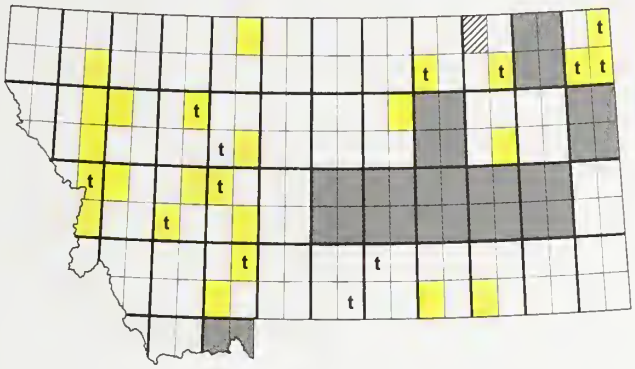
2003-2011= total number of new sightings submitted for this edition

T E C	Threatened (T), endangered (E), or candidate species (C)
SOC	Species of Concern
SI	Species of Interest
R1	Rare throughout Montana
R2	Regionally rare within Montana
R3	Rare status retained beyond 20 observations due to infrequency of encounters, previously more common

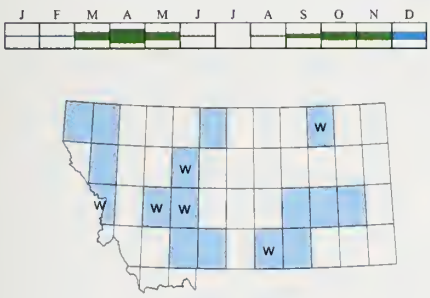
ANSERIFORMES Anatidae

Greater White-fronted Goose
Anser albifrons
2003-2011 = 30

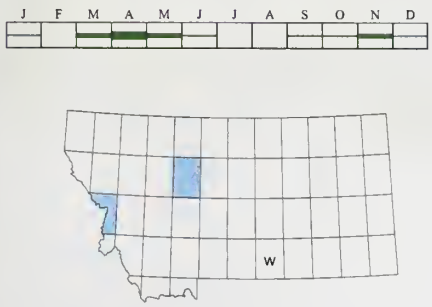




Snow Goose
Chen caerulescens
2003-2011 = 116



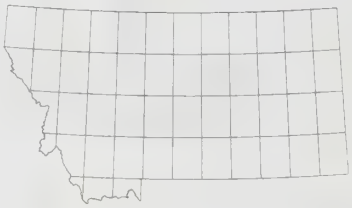
Ross's Goose
Chen rossii
2003-2011 = 42



Brant

Branta bernicla

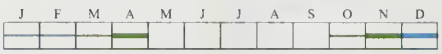
2003-2011 = 2 R1

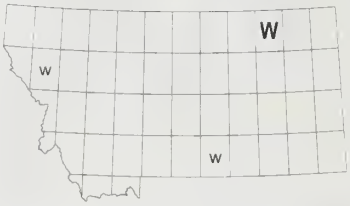


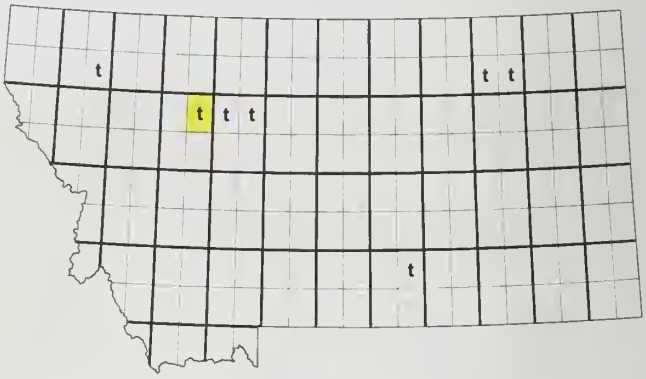
Cackling Goose

Branta hutchinsii

2003-2011 = 18 R2



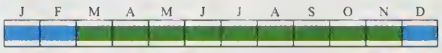


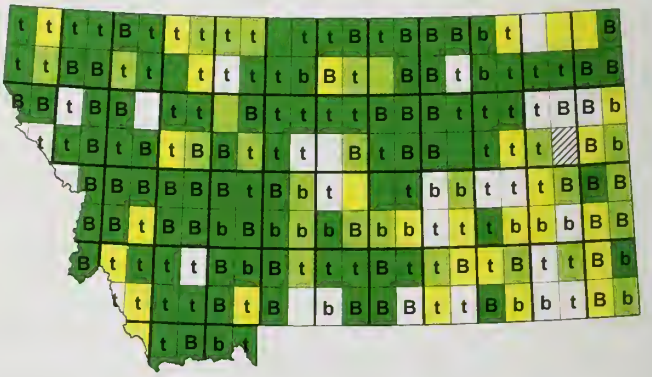


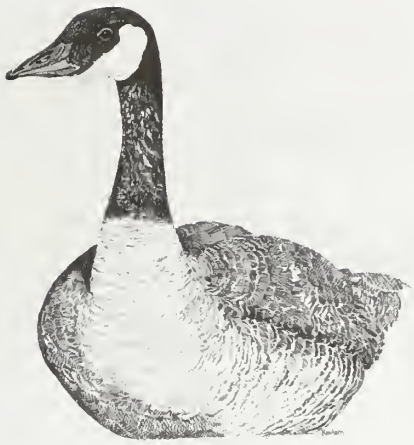
Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

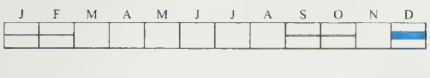
2003-2011 = 3220

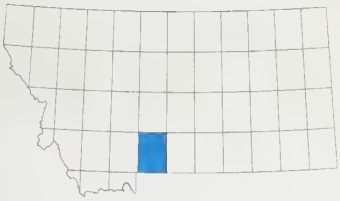


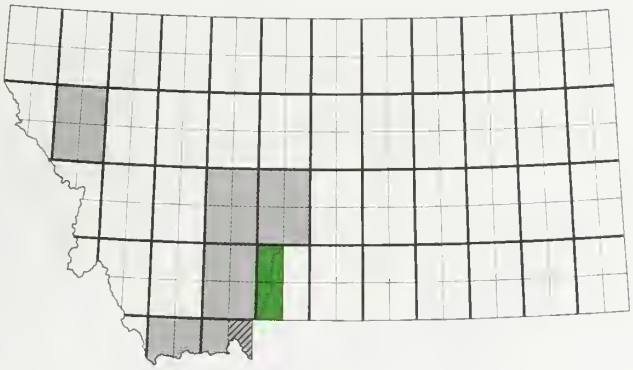




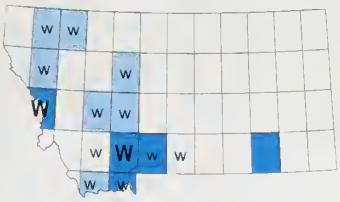
Mute Swan
Cygnus olor
2003-2011 = 0

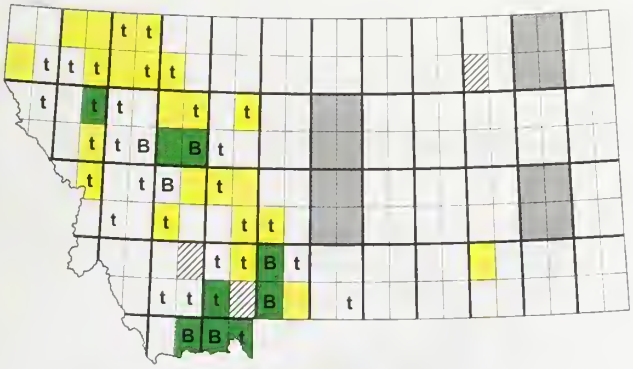




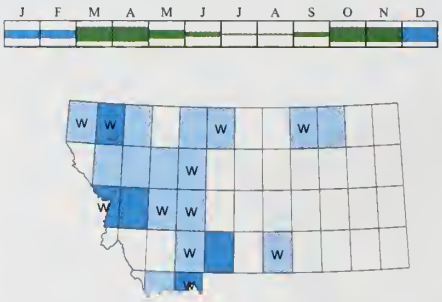


Trumpeter Swan
Cygnus buccinator
2003-2011 = 420 SOC

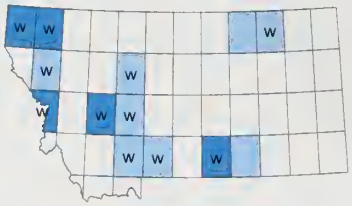


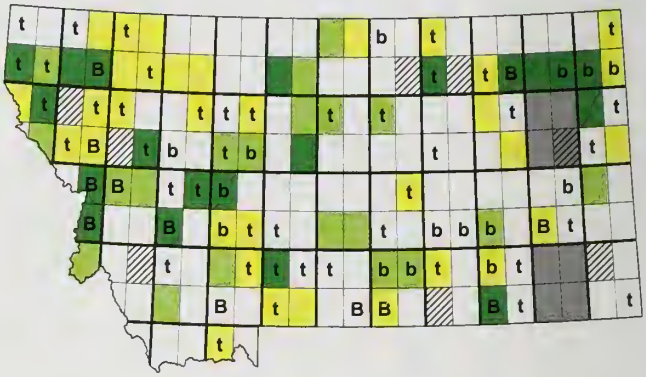


Tundra Swan
Cygnus columbianus
2003-2011 = 229

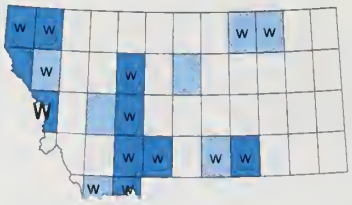


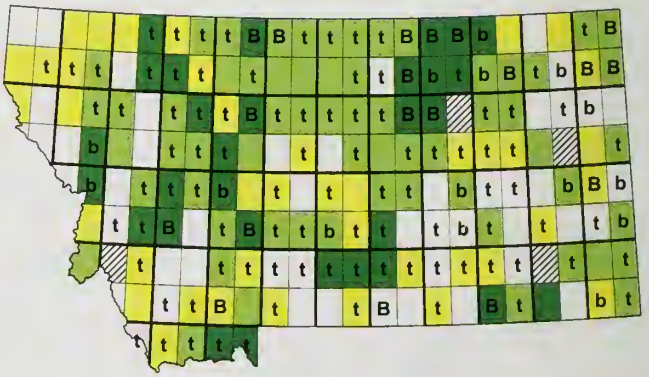
Wood Duck
Aix sponsa
2003-2011 = 373





Gadwall
Anas strepera
2003-2011 = 1419

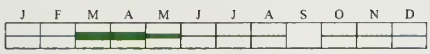


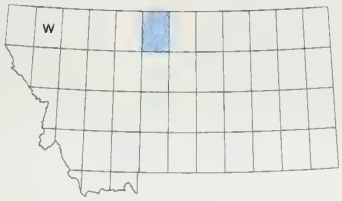


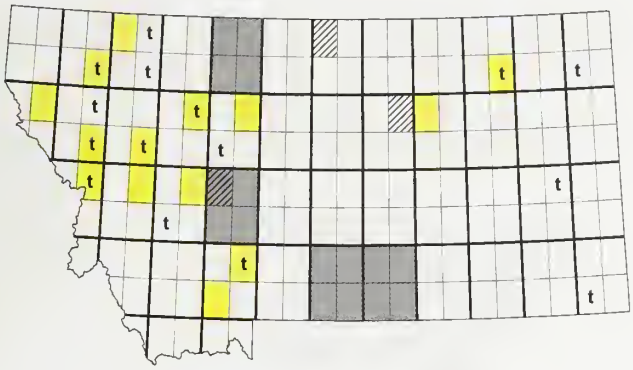
Eurasian Wigeon

Anas penelope

2003-2011 = 46



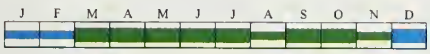


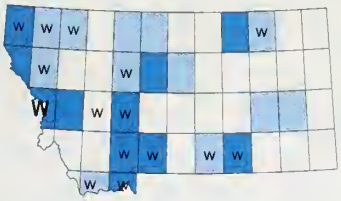


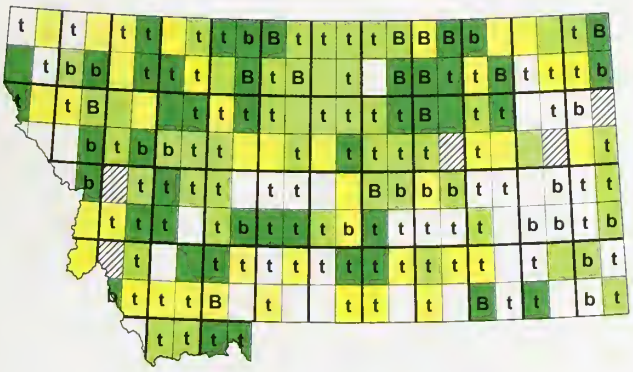
American Wigeon

Anas americana

2003-2011 = 1302



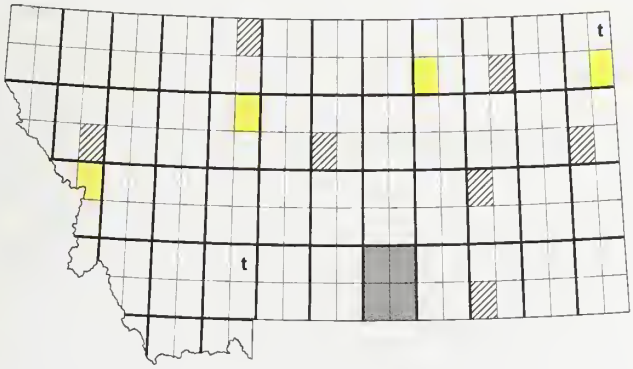




American Black Duck

Anas rubripes

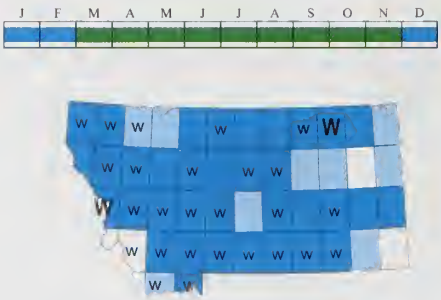
2003-2011 = 3

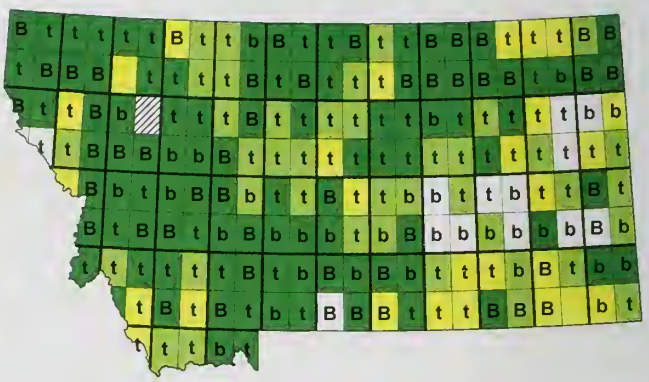


Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

2003-2011 = 3975

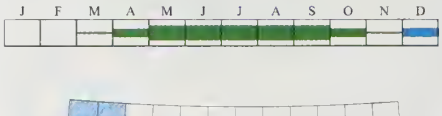


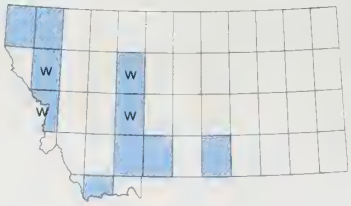


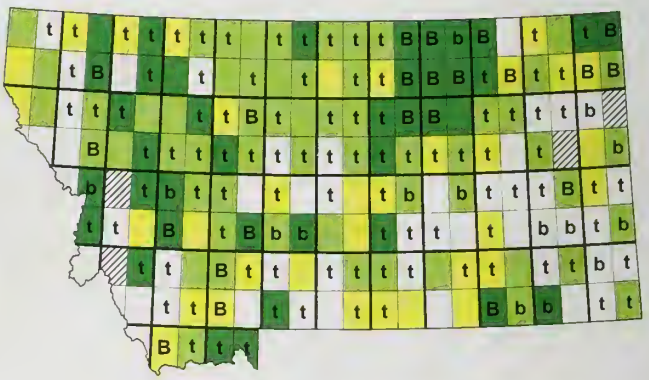
Blue-winged Teal

Anas discors

2003-2011 = 992



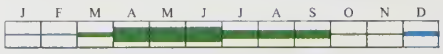


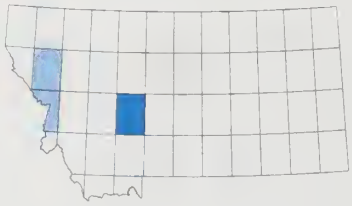


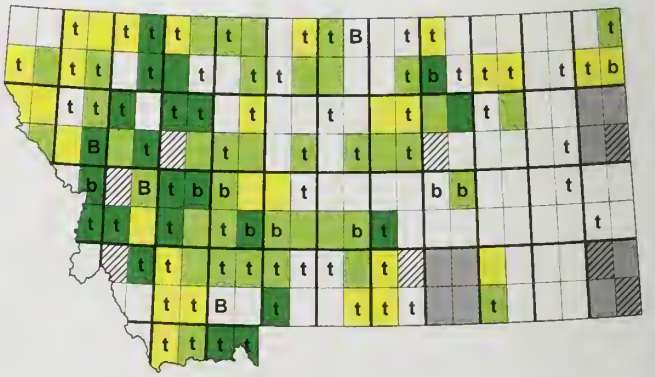
Cinnamon Teal

Anas cyanoptera

2003-2011 = 619



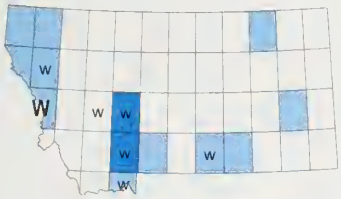


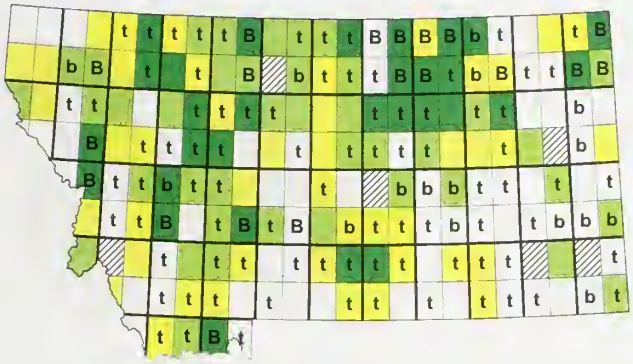


Northern Shoveler

Anas clypeata

2003-2011 = 1251

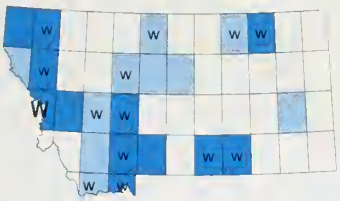


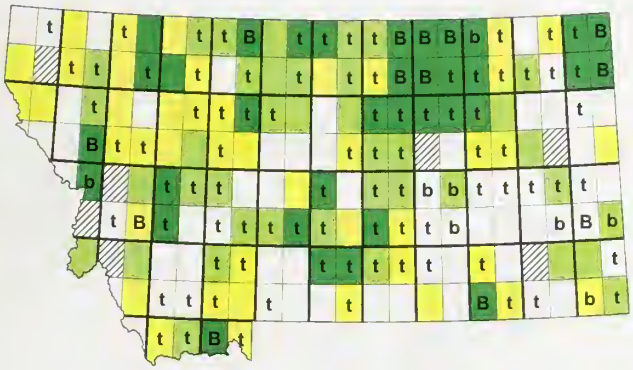


Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

2003-2011 = 852

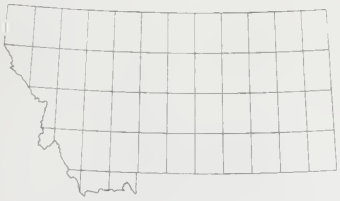


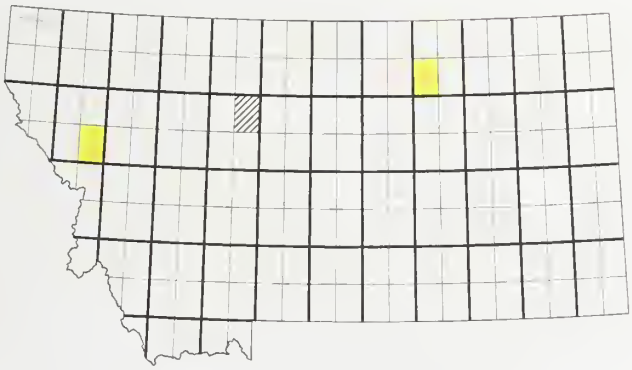


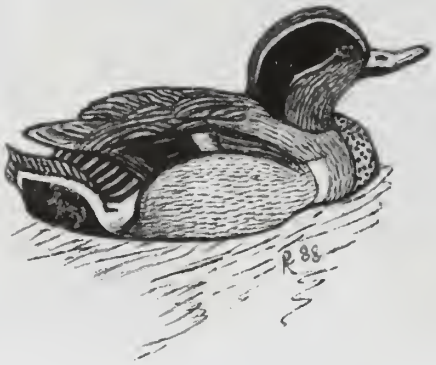
Garganey

Anas querquedula

2003-2011 = 0 R1



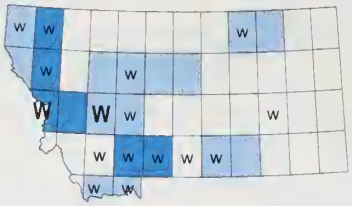




Green-winged Teal

Anas crecca

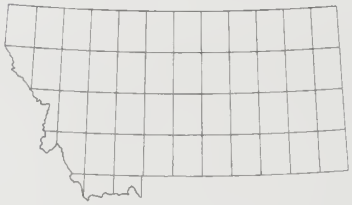
2003-2011 = 667

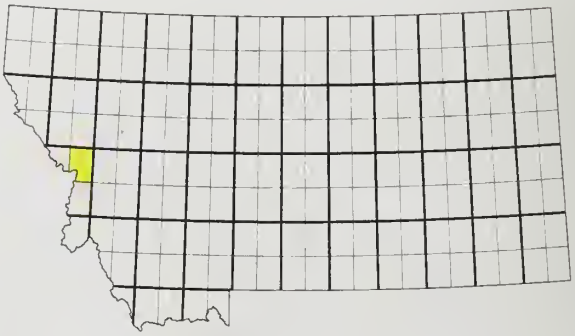


Eurasian Green-winged Teal

Anas crecca crecca

2003-2011 = 0

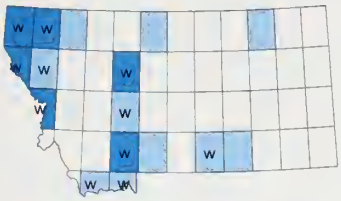


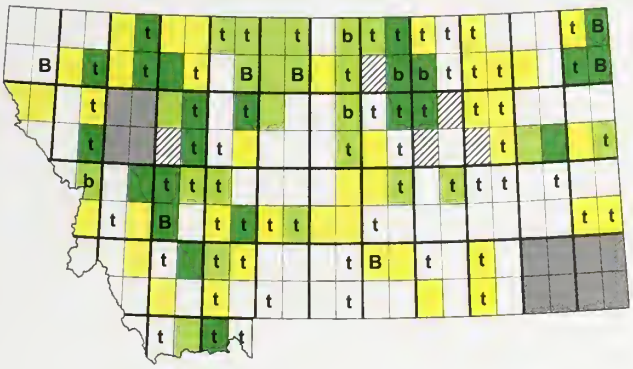


Canvasback

Aythya valisineria

2003-2011 = 720

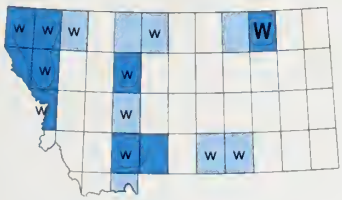


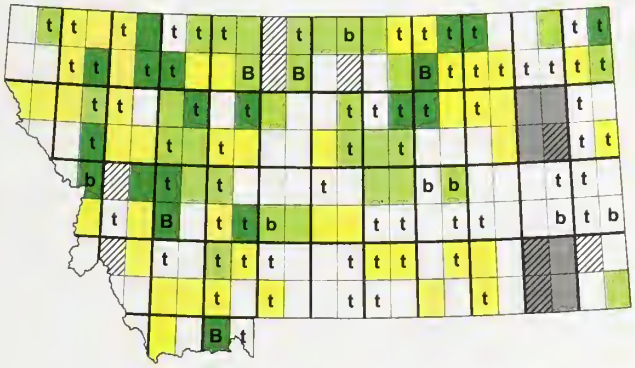


Redhead

Aythya americana

2003-2011 = 909

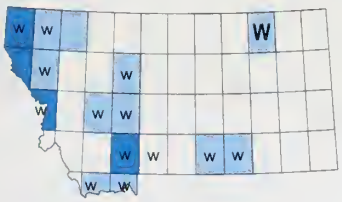




Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

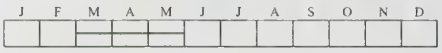
2003-2011 = 624

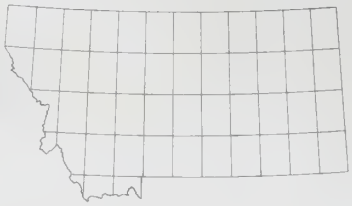


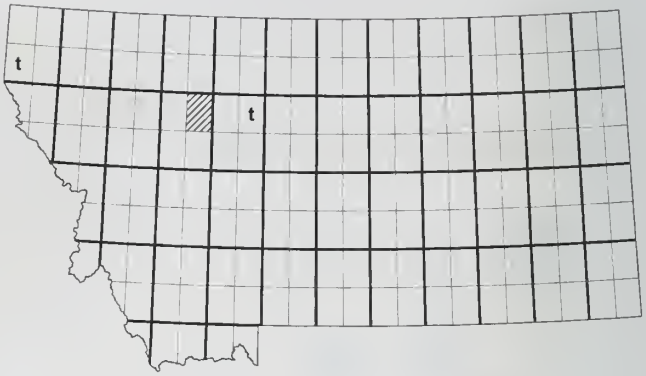
Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

2003-2011 = 2 R1



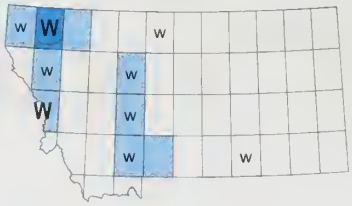


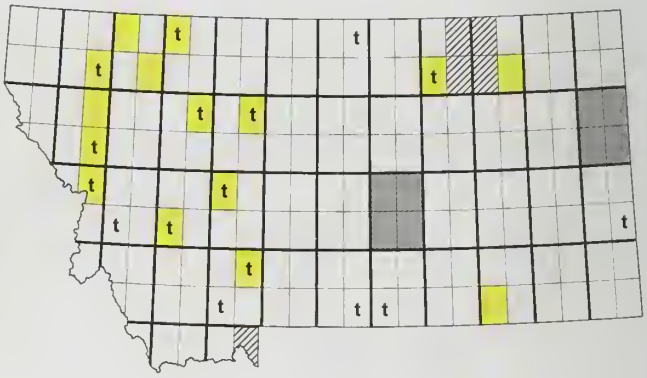


Greater Scaup

Aythya marila

2003-2011 = 197

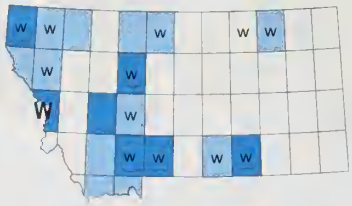


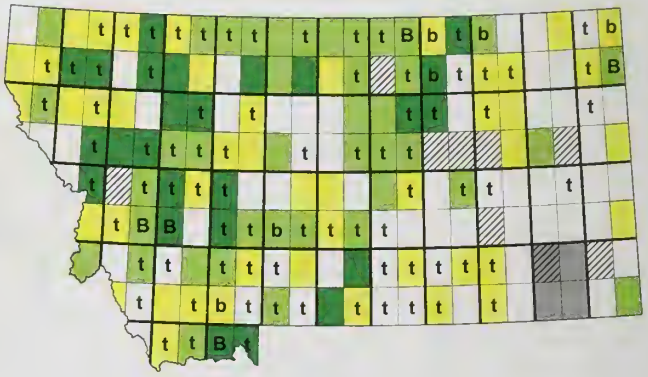


Lesser Scaup

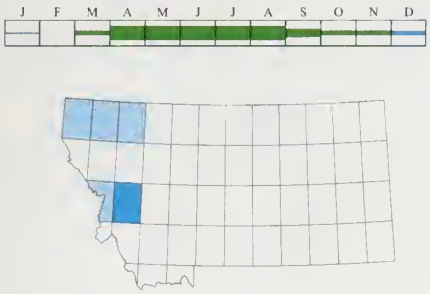
Aythya affinis

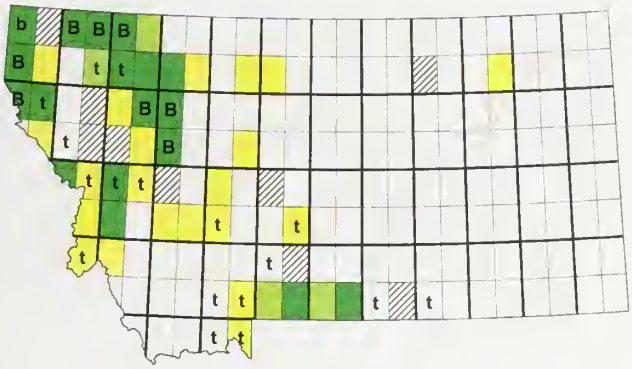
2003-2011 = 1076



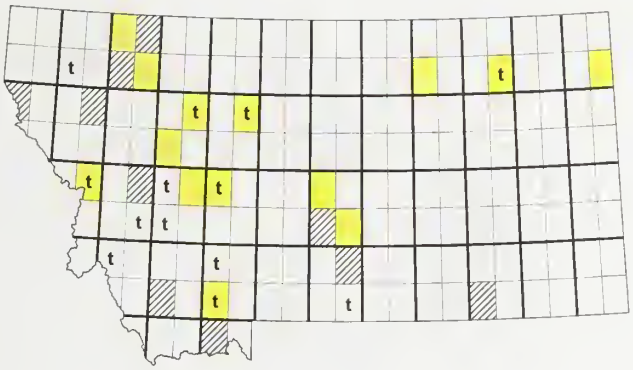


Harlequin Duck
Histrionicus histrionicus
2003-2011 = 145 SOC

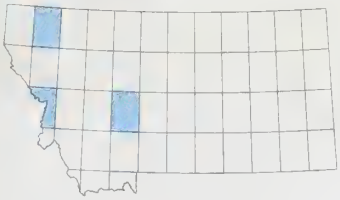




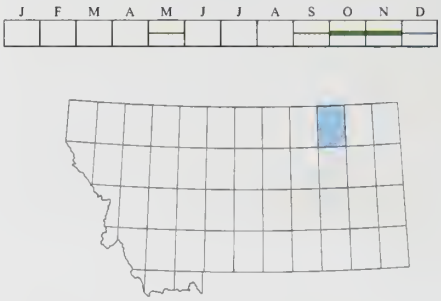
Surf Scoter
Melanitta perspicillata
2003-2011 = 30

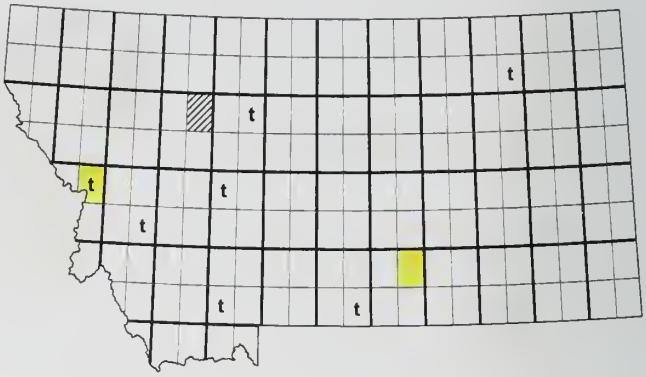


White-winged Scoter
Melanitta fusca
2003-2011 = 19

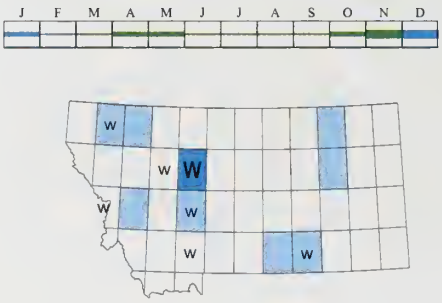


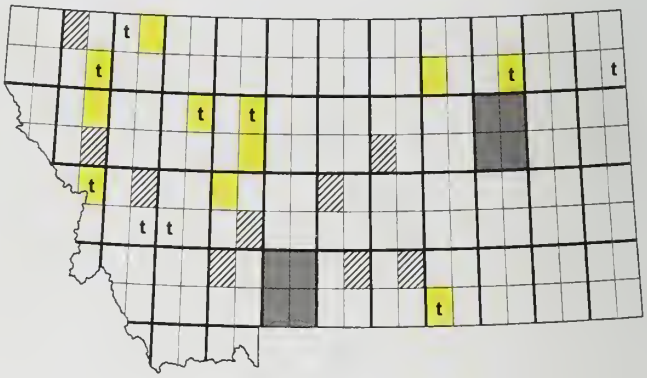
Black Scoter
Melanitta americana
2003-2011 = 9 R1



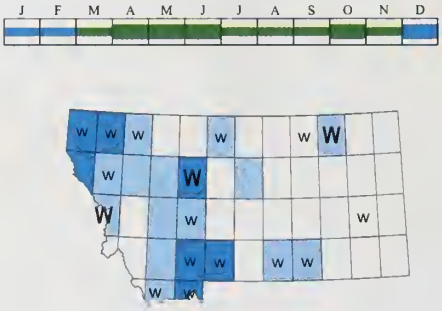


Long-tailed Duck
Clangula hyemalis
2003-2011 = 42

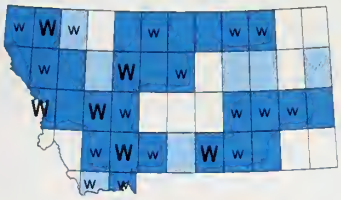


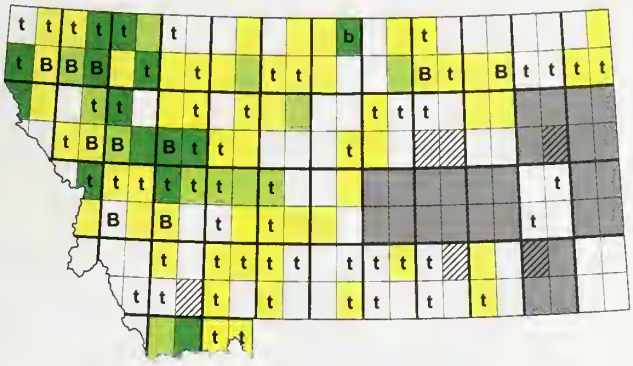


Bufflehead
Bucephala albeola
2003-2011 = 779

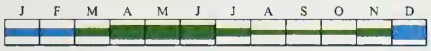


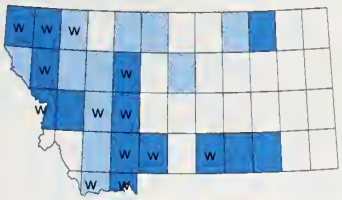
Common Goldeneye
Bucephala clangula
2003-2011 = 936



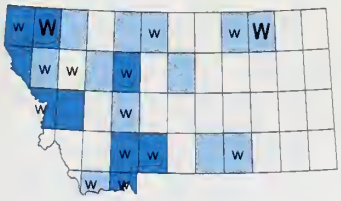


Barrow's Goldeneye
Bucephala islandica
2003-2011 = 369 SI





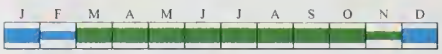
Hooded Merganser
Lophodytes cucullatus
2003-2011 = 323 SI

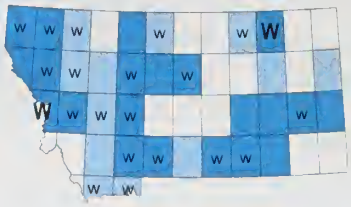


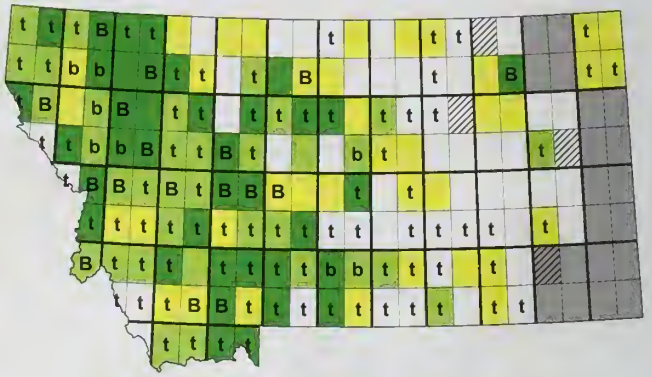
Common Merganser

Mergus merganser

2003-2011 = 950



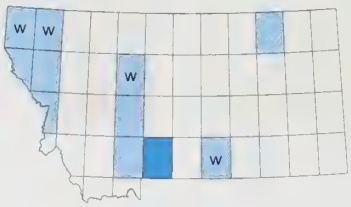




Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

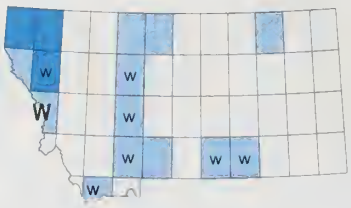
2003-2011 = 98

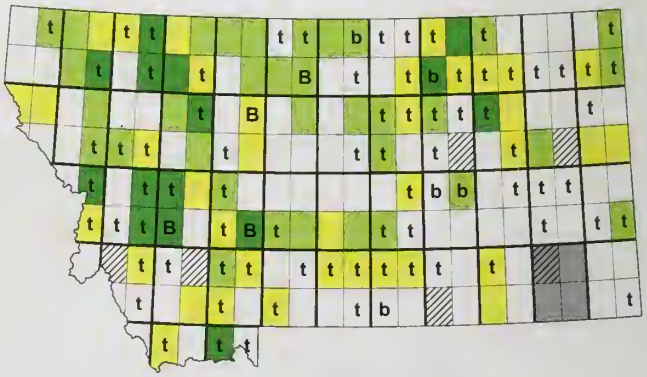


Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

2003-2011 = 786

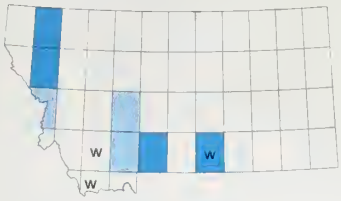


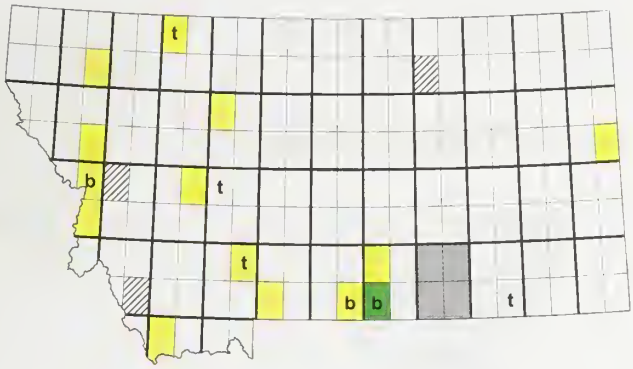


Chukar

Alectoris chukar

2003-2011 = 21

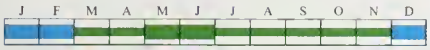


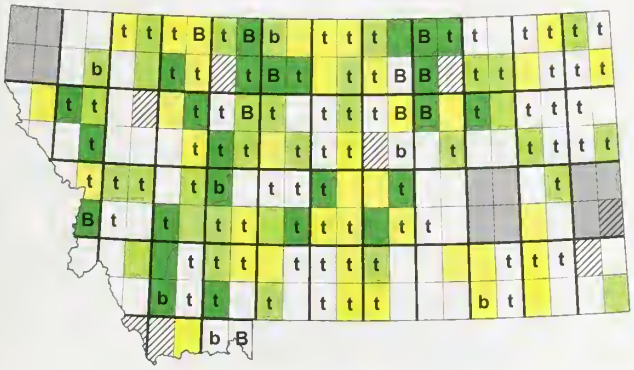


Gray Partridge

Perdix perdix

2003-2011 = 513

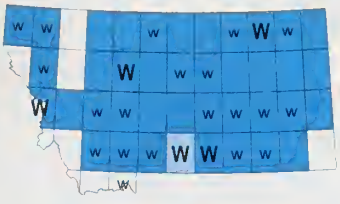


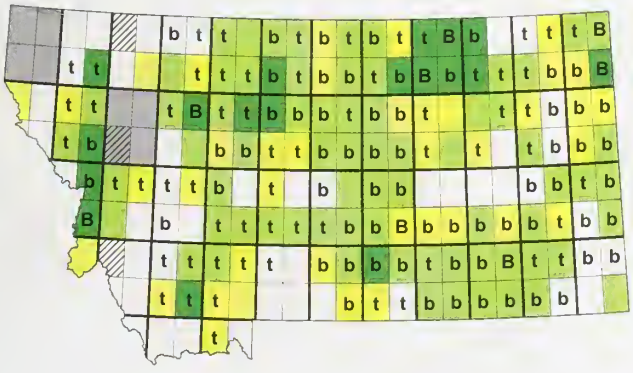


Ring-necked Pheasant

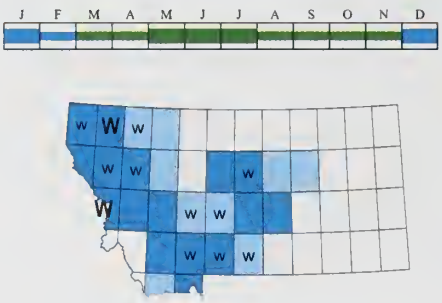
Phasianus colchicus

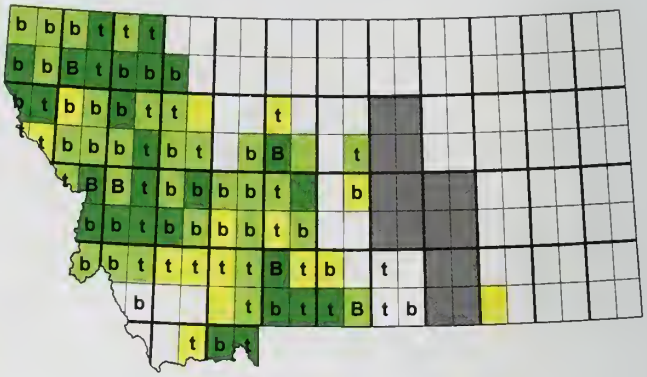
2003-2011 = 2911



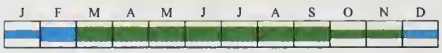


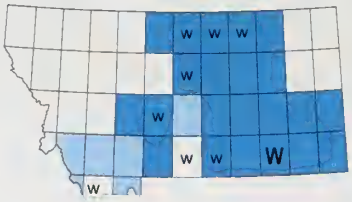
Ruffed Grouse
Bonasa umbellus
2003-2011 = 737



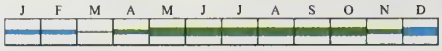


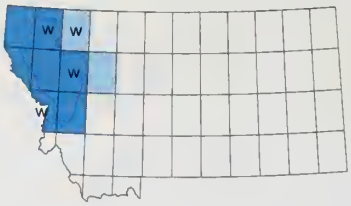
Greater Sage-Grouse
Centrocercus urophasianus
2003-2011 = 4178 C

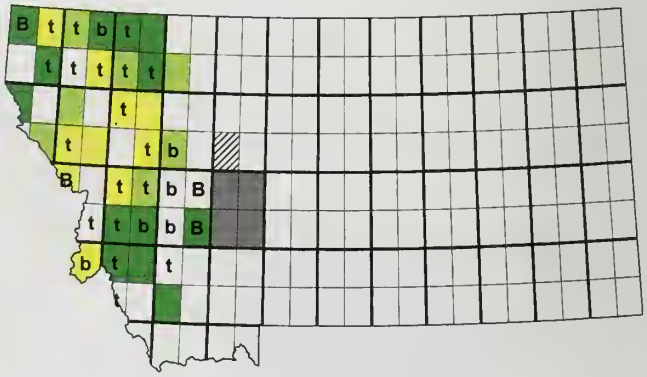




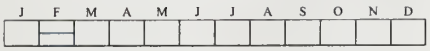
Spruce Grouse
Falcipennis canadensis
2003-2011 = 84

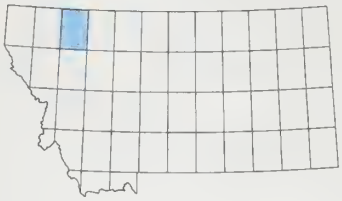


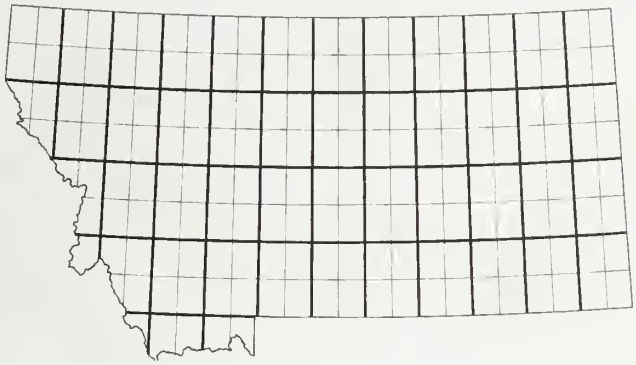




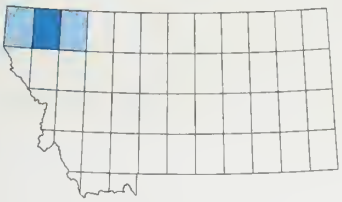
Willow Ptarmigan
Lagopus lagopus
2003-2011 = 0 R1

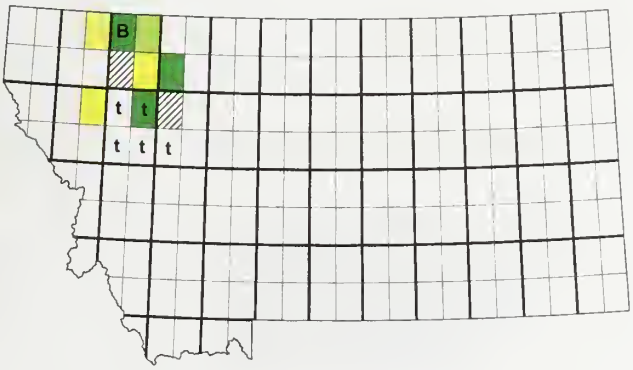




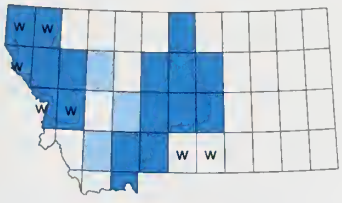


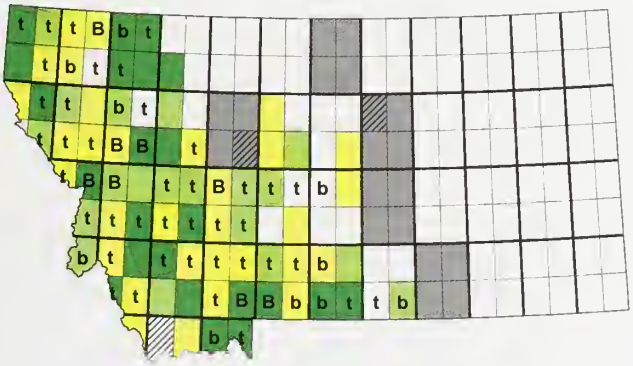
White-tailed Ptarmigan
Lagopus leucura
2003-2011 = 17 SOC





Dusky Grouse
Dendragapus obscurus
2003-2011 = 226





Sharp-tailed Grouse

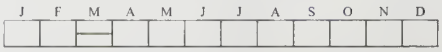
Tympanuchus phasianellus

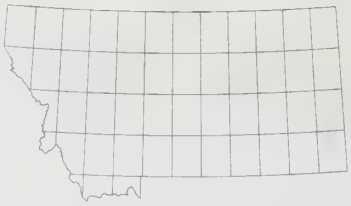
2003-2011 = 603

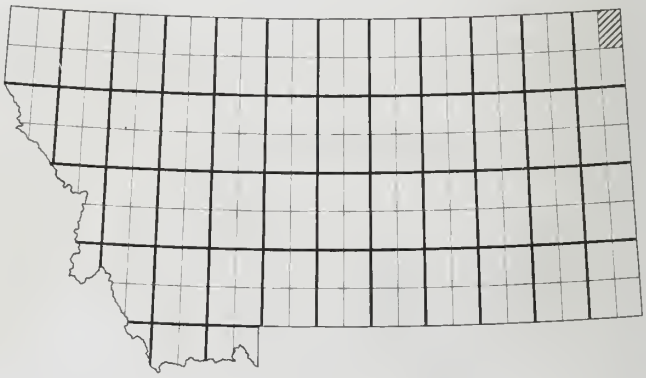
Greater Prairie-Chicken

Tympanuchus cupido

2003-2011 = 0 R1



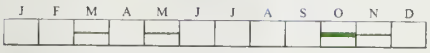


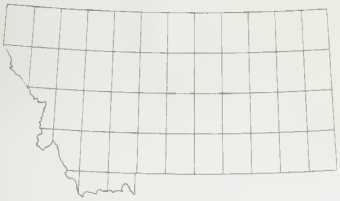


Wild Turkey
Meleagris gallopavo
2003-2011 = 614

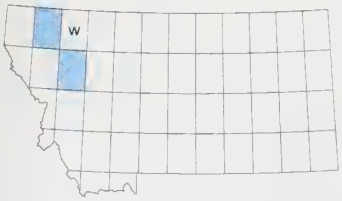
GAVIIFORMES Gaviidae

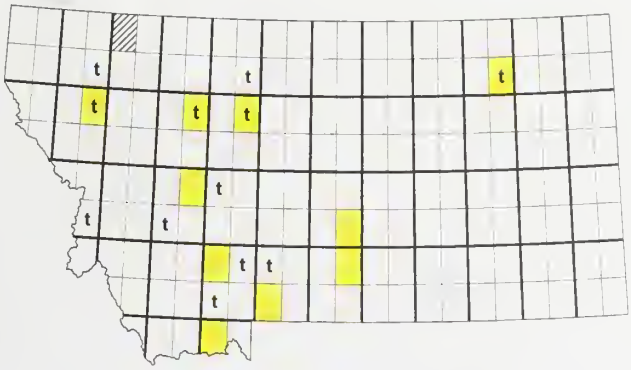
Red-throated Loon
Gavia stellata
2003-2011 = 5 R1





Pacific Loon
Gavia pacifica
2003-2011 = 18

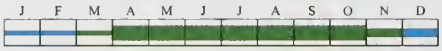


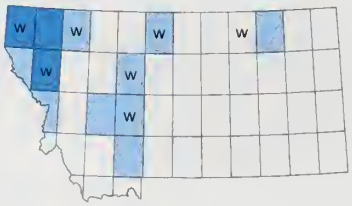


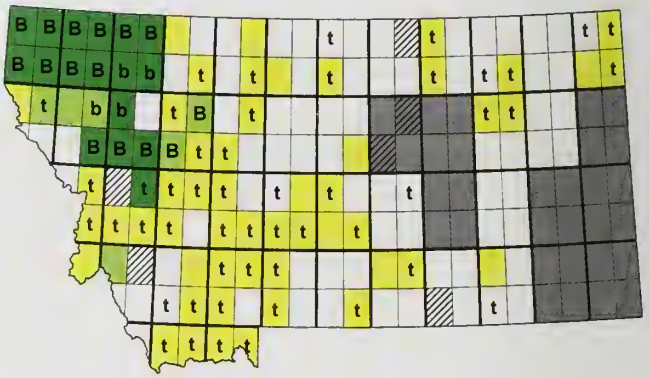
Common Loon

Gavia immer

2003-2011 = 1020 SOC



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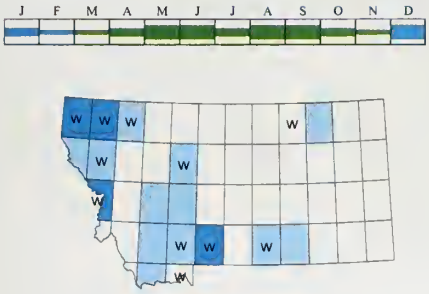
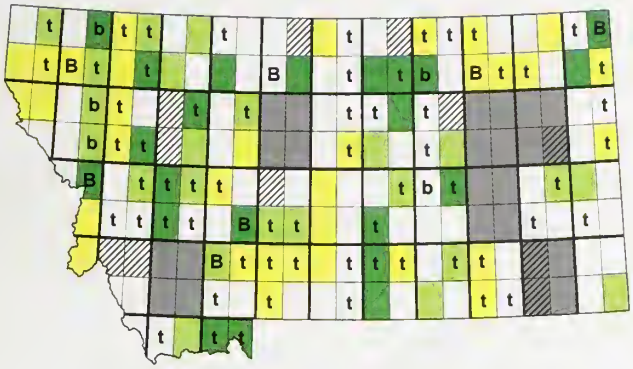
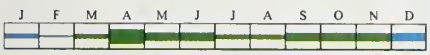
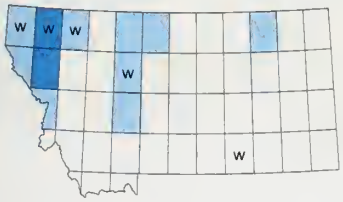
Pied-billed Grebe
Podilymbus podiceps
2003-2011 = 386



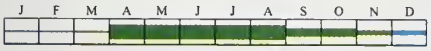


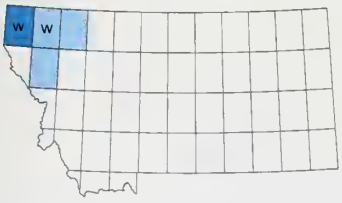
Horned Grebe
Podiceps auritus
2003-2011 = 163 SOC

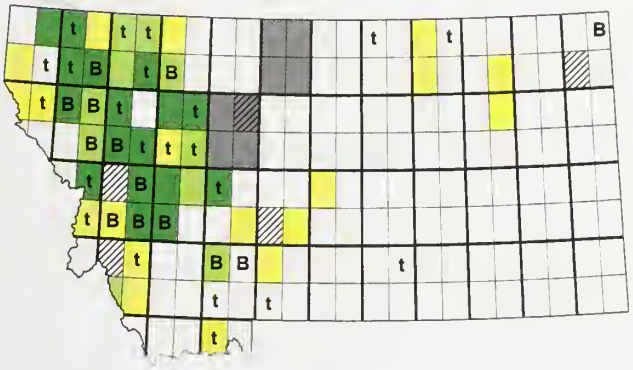




Red-necked Grebe
Podiceps grisegena
2003-2011 = 523



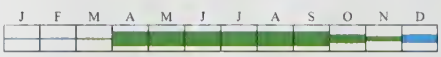


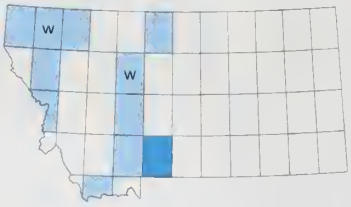


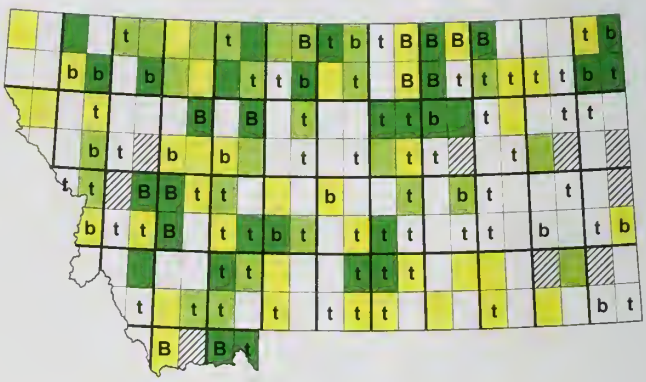
Eared Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

2003-2011 = 622 SI



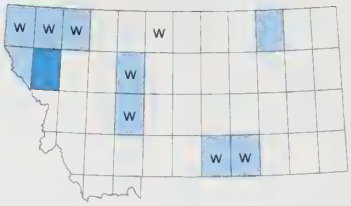


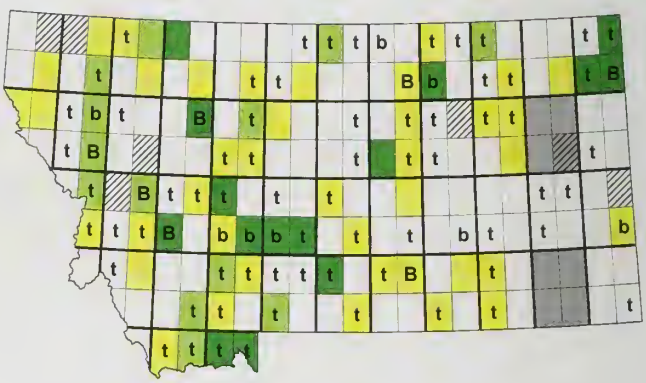


Western Grebe

Aechmophorus occidentalis

2003-2011 = 571

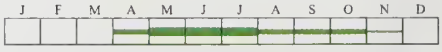


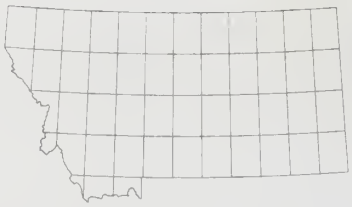


Clark's Grebe

Aechmophorus clarkii

2003-2011 = 89 SOC



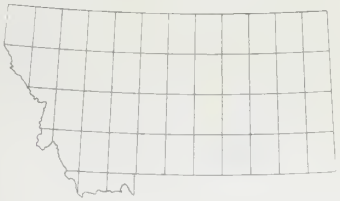


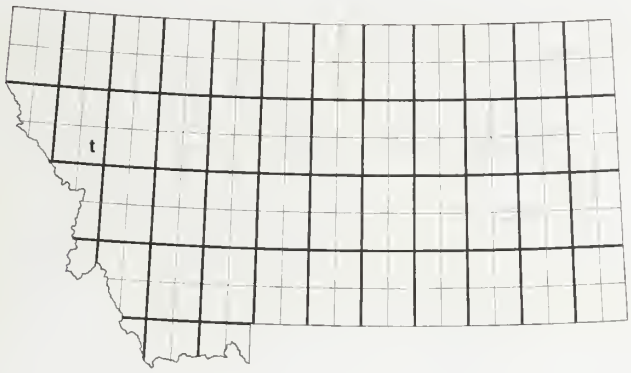
PROCELLARIIFORMES Procellariidae

Manx Shearwater

Puffinus puffinus

2003-2011 = 1 R1



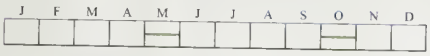


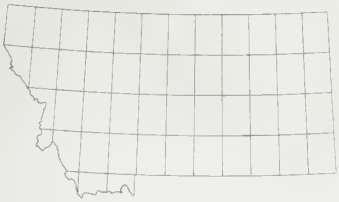
CICONIIFORMES Ciconiidae

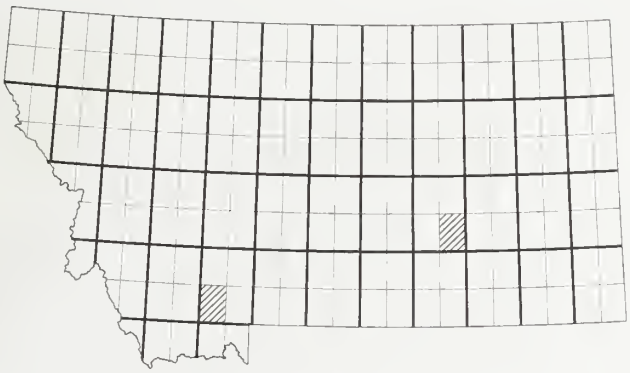
Wood Stork

Mycteria americana

2003-2011 = 0 R1





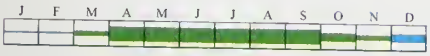


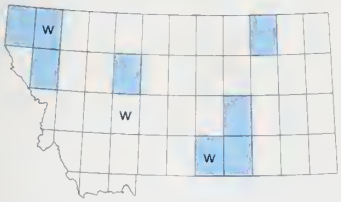
SULIFORMES Phalacrocoracidae

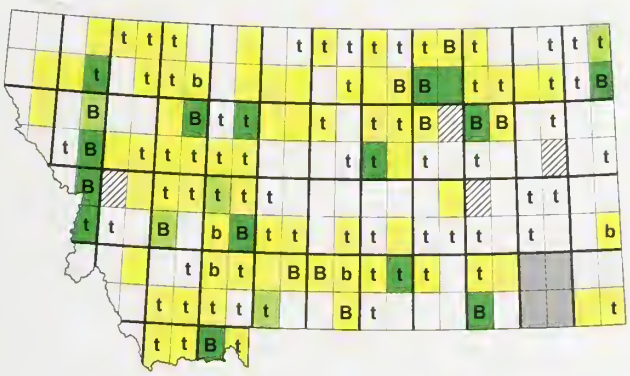
Double-crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

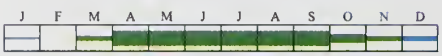
2003-2011 = 966

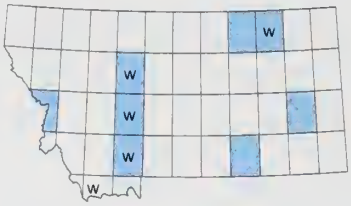


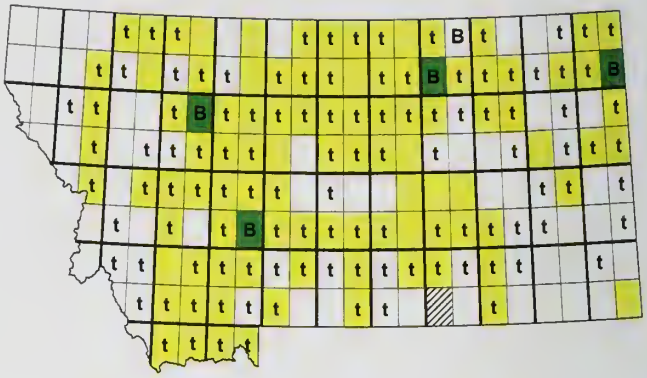




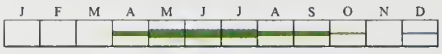
American White Pelican
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
2003-2011 = 1146 SOC

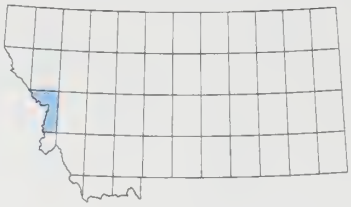


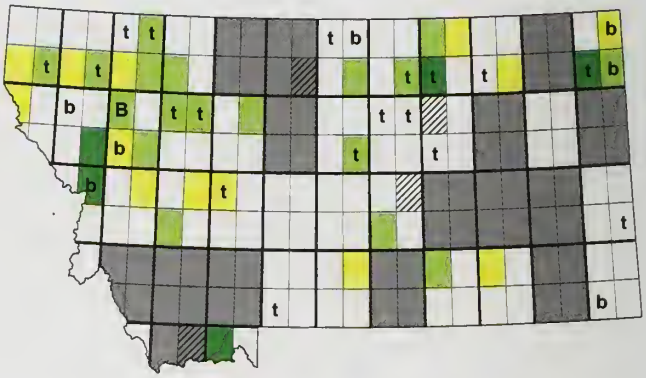




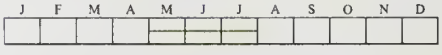
American Bittern
Botaurus lentiginosus
2003-2011 = 75 SOC

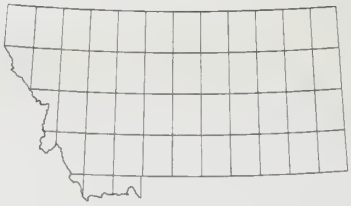


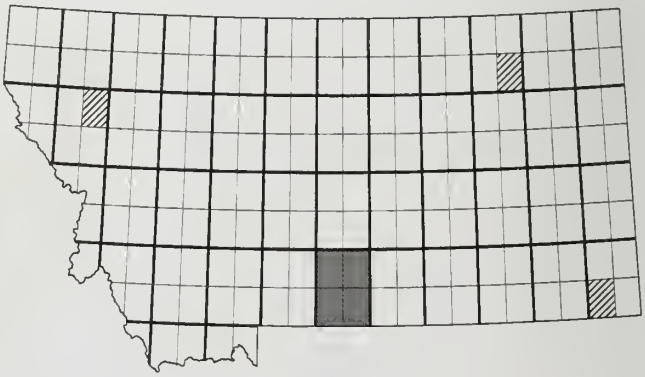




Least Bittern
Ixobrychus exilis
2003-2011 = 0 R1



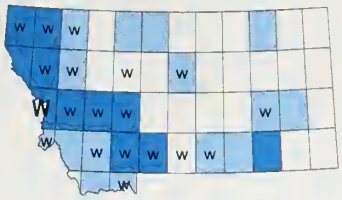


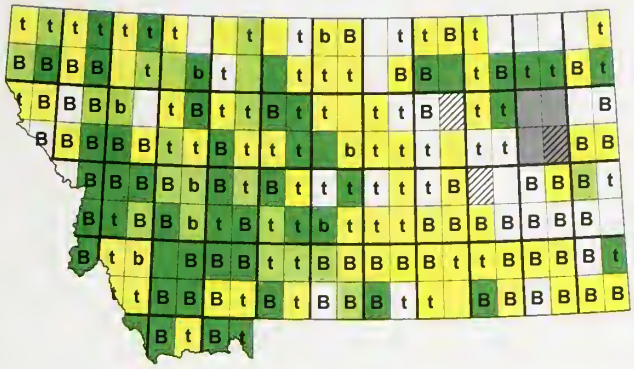


Great Blue Heron

Ardea herodias

2003-2011 = 1670 SOC

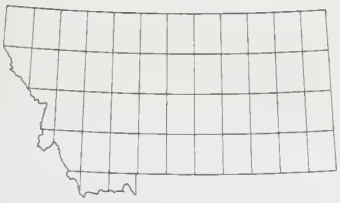


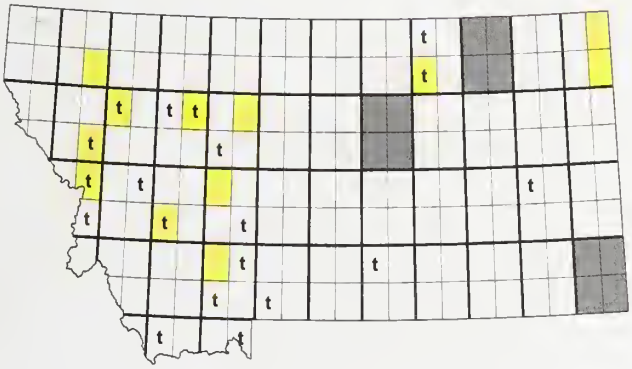


Great Egret

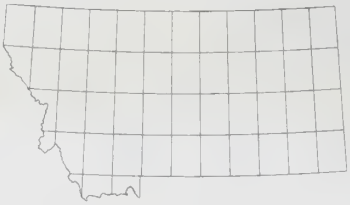
Ardea alba

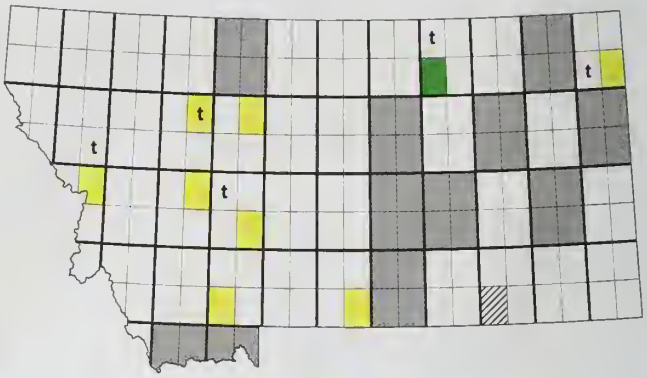
2003-2011 = 41



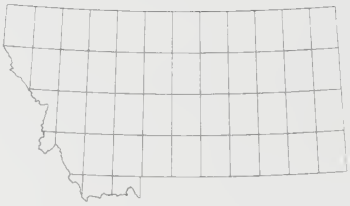


Snowy Egret
Egretta thula
2003-2011 = 8

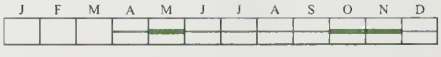


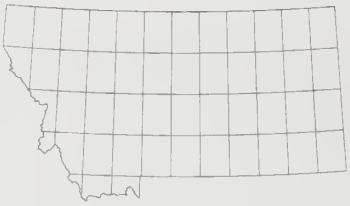


Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea
2003-2011 = 4 R1



Cattle Egret
Bubulcus ibis
2003-2011 = 10

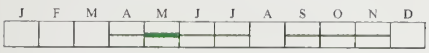


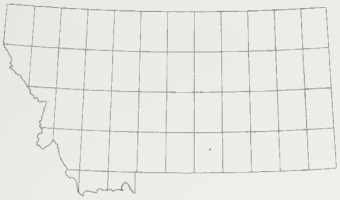


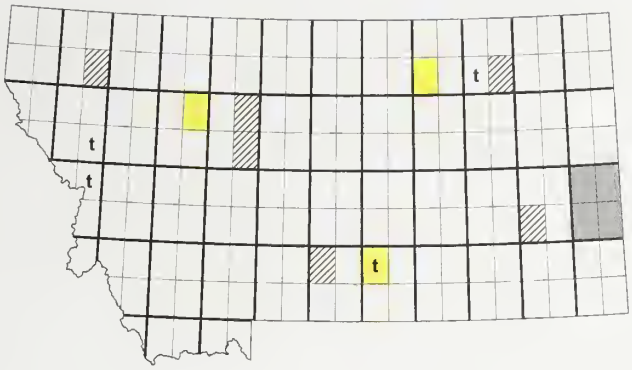
Green Heron

Butorides virescens

2003-2011 = 4 R1



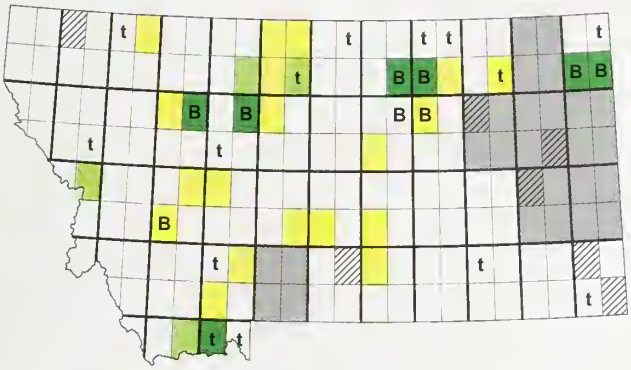




Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax

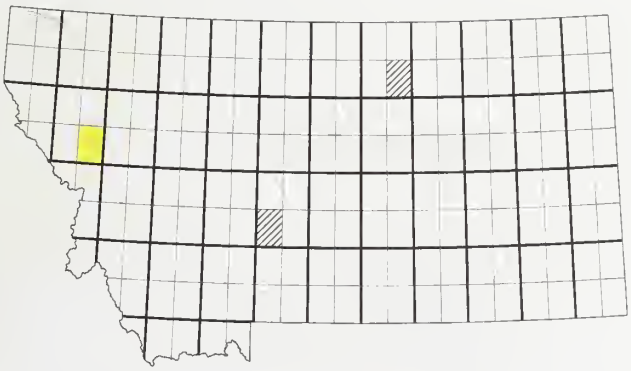
2003-2011 = 133 SOC



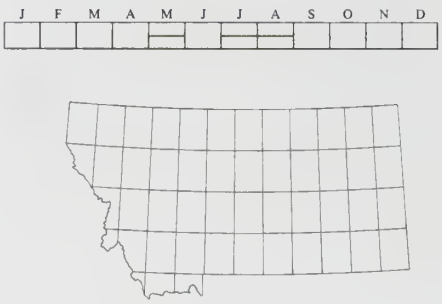
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

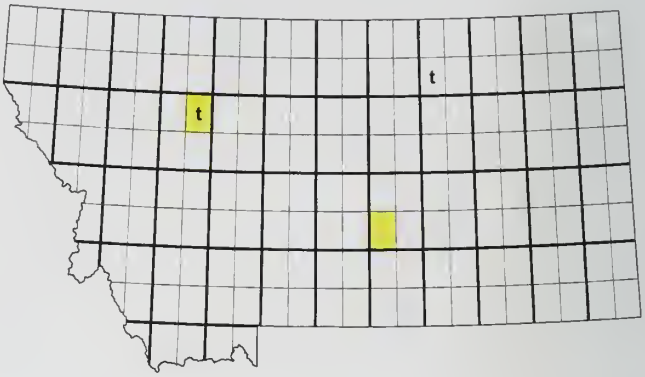
Nyctanassa violacea

2003-2011 = 0 R1

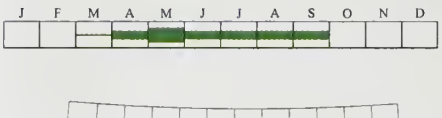


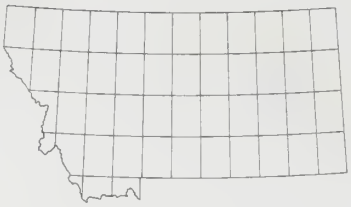
Glossy Ibis
Plegadis falcinellus
2003-2011 = 4 R1



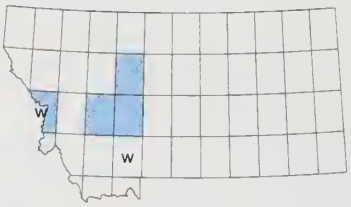


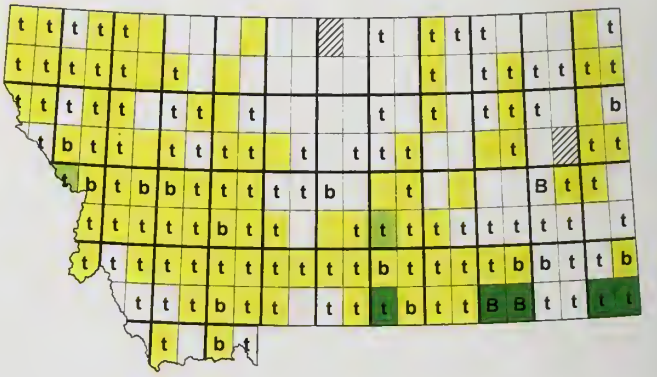
White-faced Ibis
Plegadis chihi
2003-2011 = 113 SOC





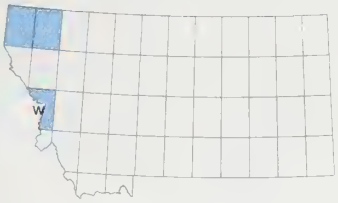
Turkey Vulture
Cathartes aura
2003-2011 = 897

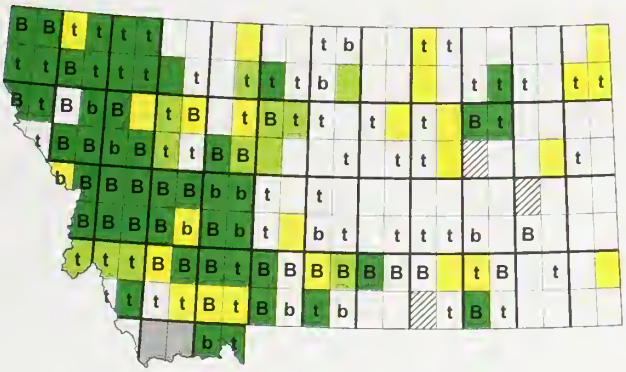




Pandionidae

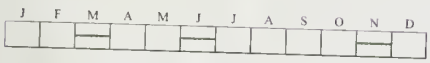
Osprey
Pandion haliaetus
2003-2011 = 1408

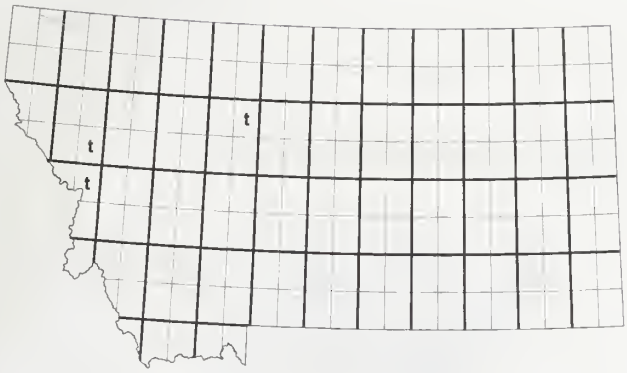




Accipitridae

White-tailed Kite
Elanus leucurus
2003-2011 = 3 R1

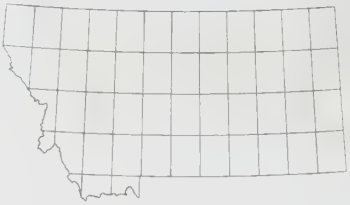


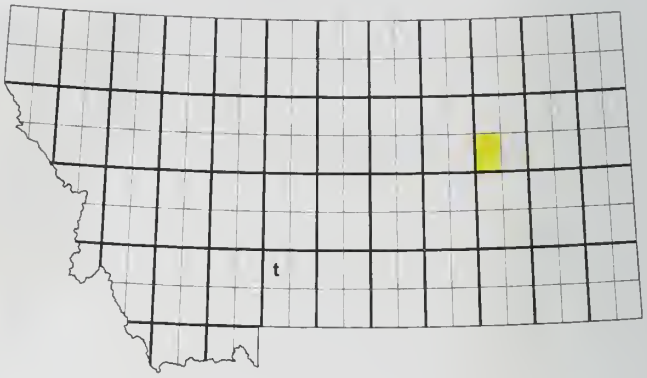


Mississippi Kite

Ictinia mississippiensis

2003-2011 = 1 R1

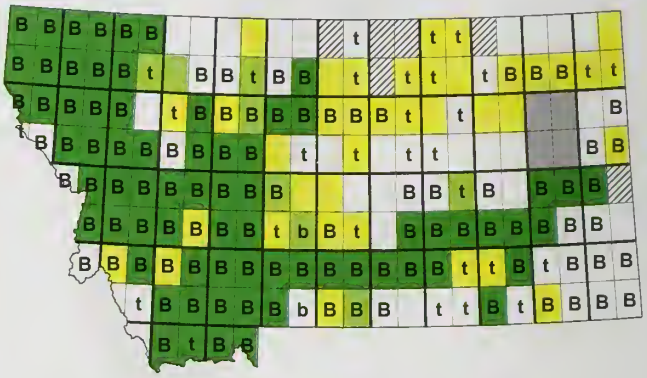




Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

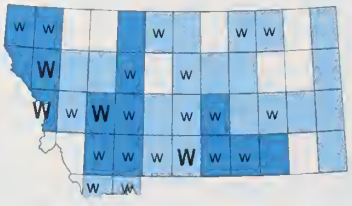
2003-2011 = 4165 SOC

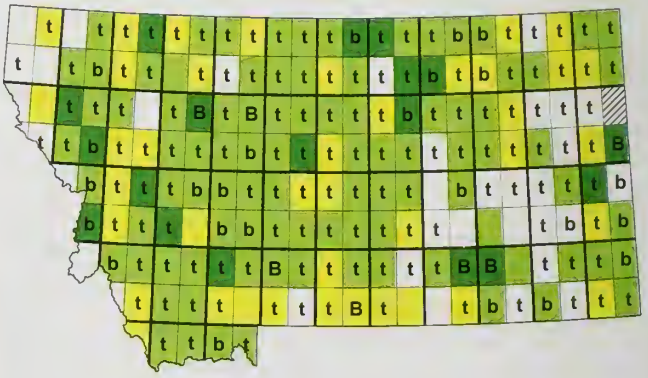


Northern Harrier

Circus cyaneus

2003-2011 = 2158

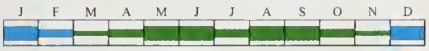


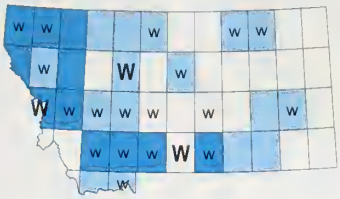


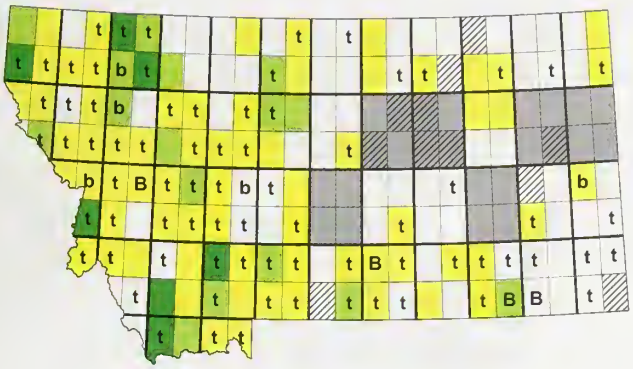
Sharp-shinned Hawk

Accipiter striatus

2003-2011 = 414



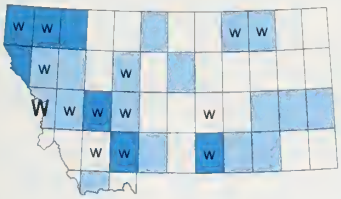


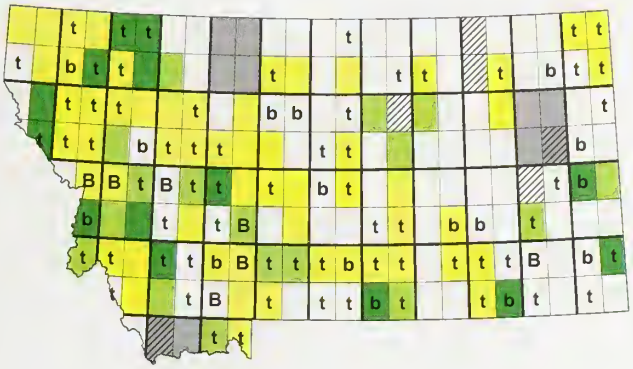


Cooper's Hawk

Accipiter cooperii

2003-2011 = 347

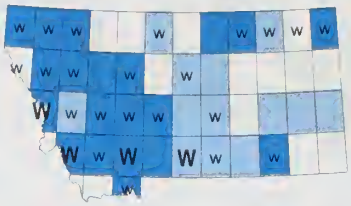


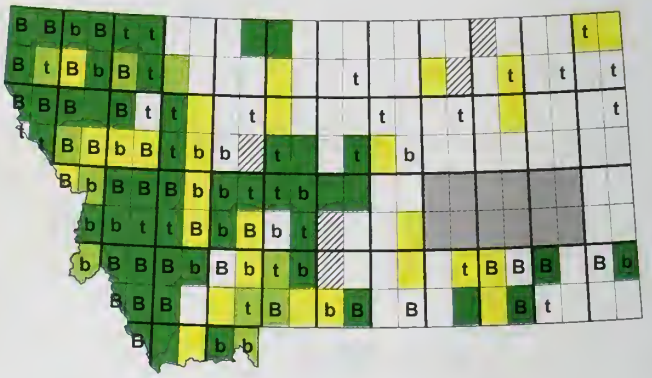


Northern Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis

2003-2011 = 540 SOC

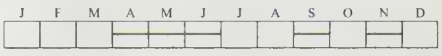


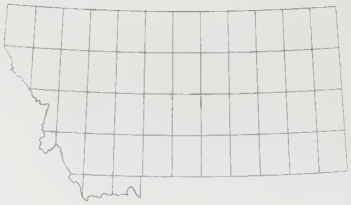


Red-shouldered Hawk

Buteo lineatus

2003-2011 = 1 R1

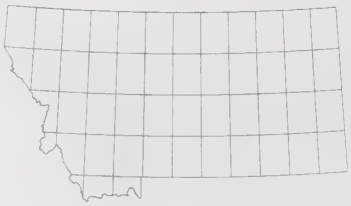




Broad-winged Hawk

Buteo platypterus

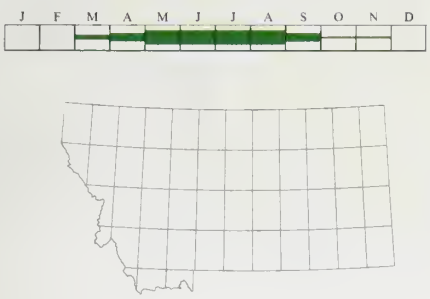
2003-2011 = 25



Swainson's Hawk

Buteo swainsoni

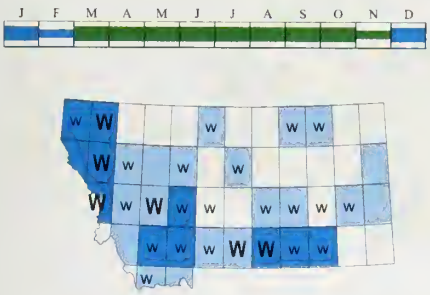
2003-2011 = 762 SI

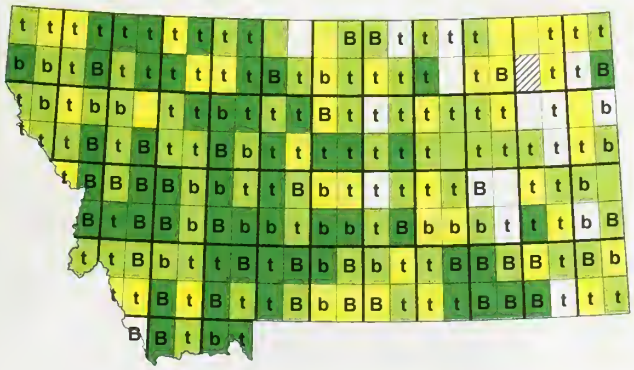


Red-tailed Hawk

Buteo jamaicensis

2003-2011 = 2947

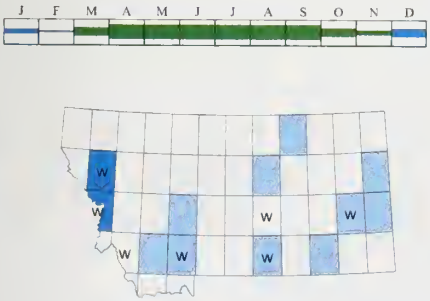


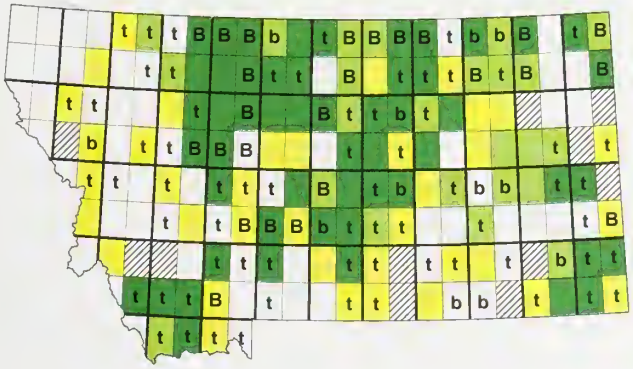


Ferruginous Hawk

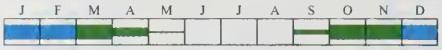
Buteo regalis

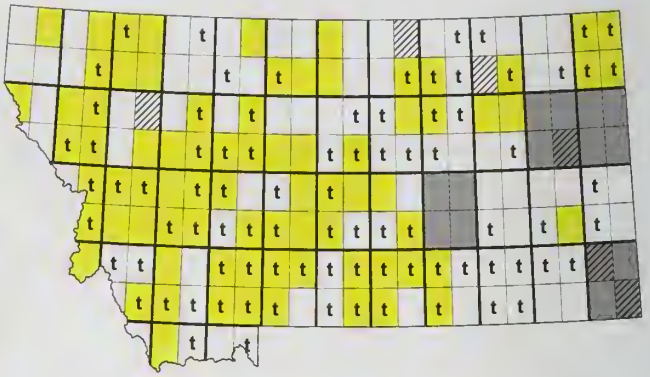
2003-2011 = 548 SOC



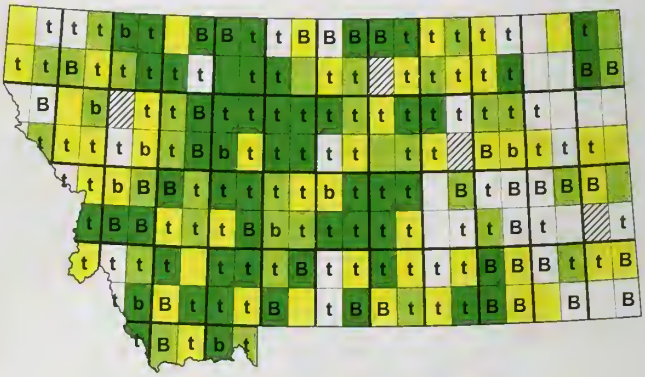


Rough-legged Hawk
Buteo lagopus
2003-2011 = 786



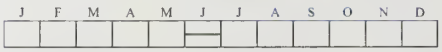


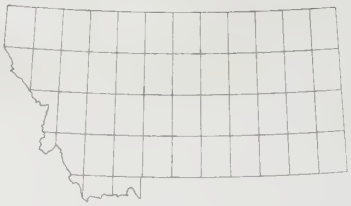
Golden Eagle
Aquila chrysaetos
2003-2011 = 1088 SOC

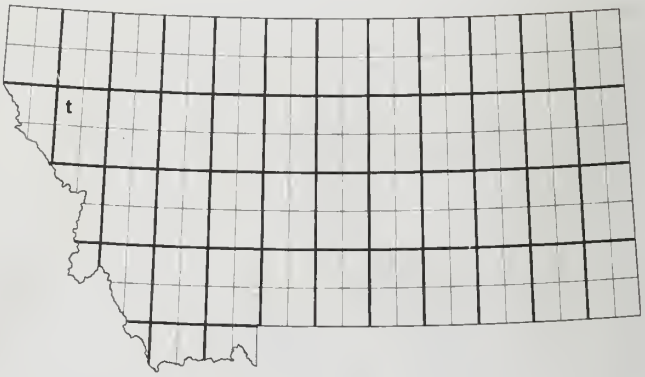


FALCONIFORMES Falconidae

Crested Caracara
Caracara cheriway
2003-2011 = 1 R1



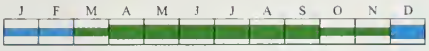


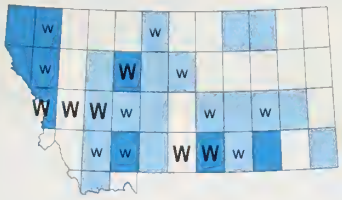


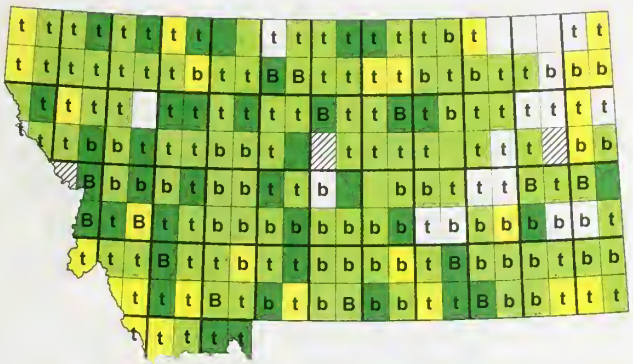
American Kestrel

Falco sparverius

2003-2011 = 2038



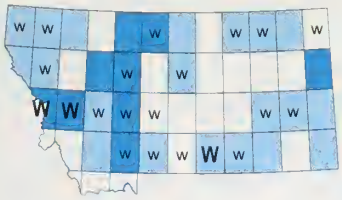


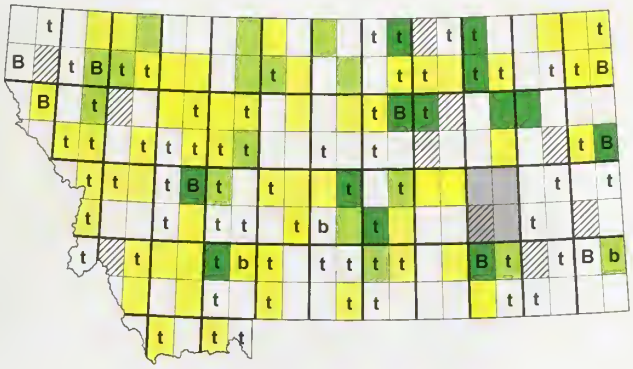


Merlin

Falco columbarius

2003-2011 = 354

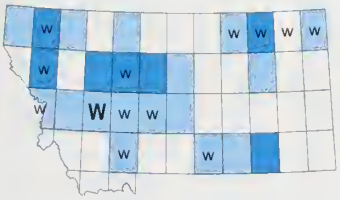


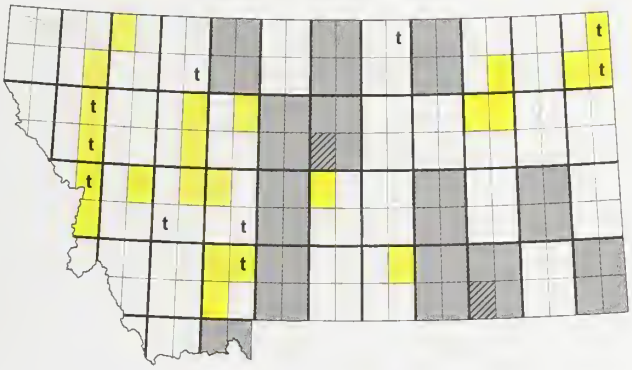


Gyrfalcon

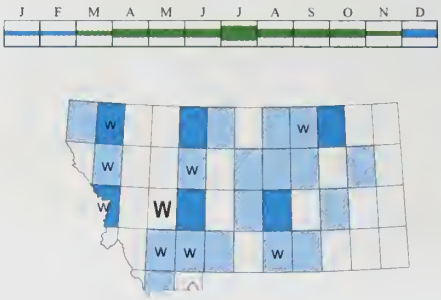
Falco rusticolus

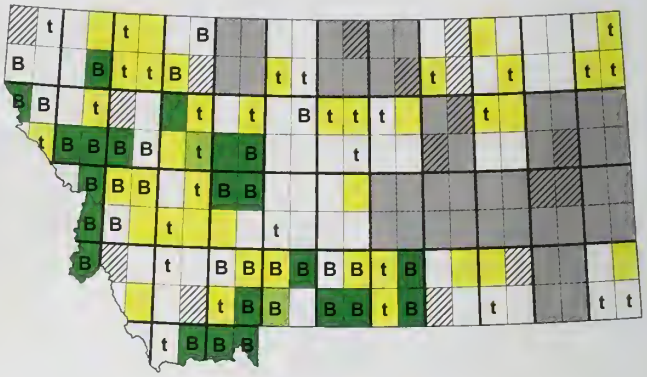
2003-2011 = 66



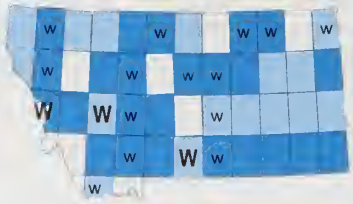


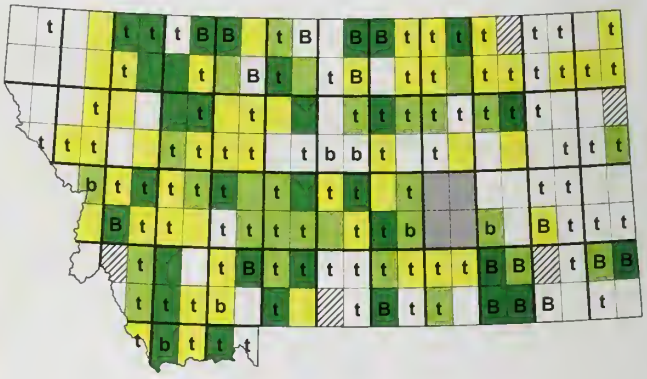
Peregrine Falcon
Falco peregrinus
2003-2011 = 395 SOC





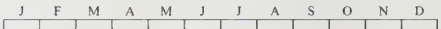
Prairie Falcon
Falco mexicanus
2003-2011 = 496

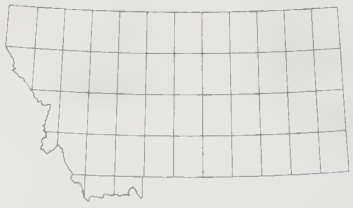


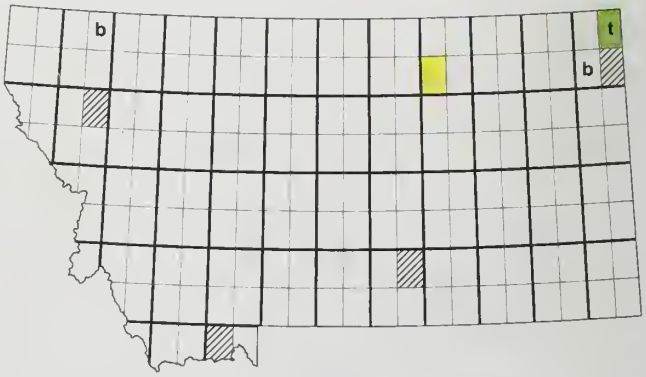


GRUIFORMES Rallidae

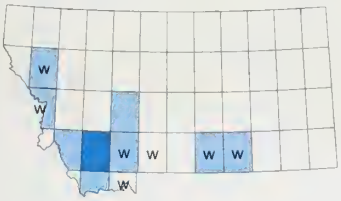
Yellow Rail
Coturnicops noveboracensis
2003-2011 = 3 SOC R2

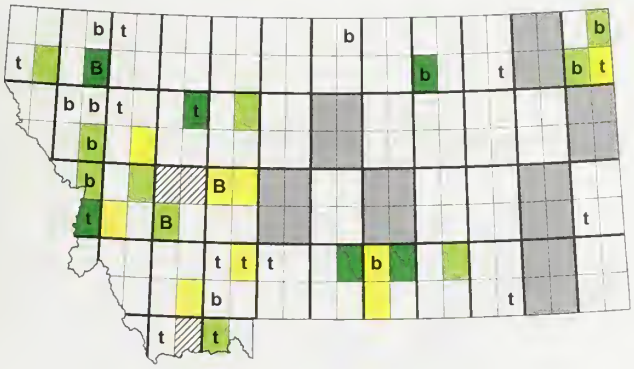




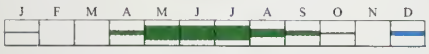


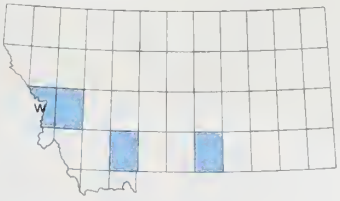
Virginia Rail
Rallus limicola
2003-2011 = 149 SI

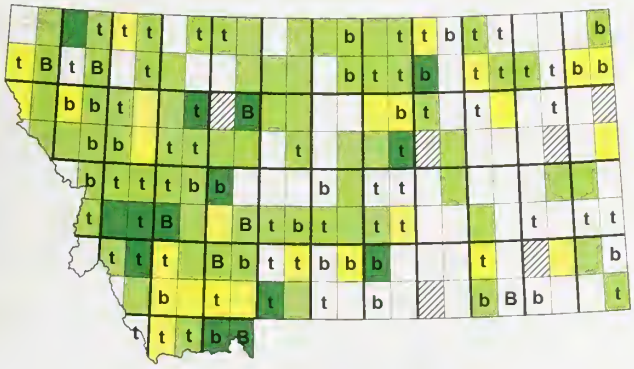




Sora
Porzana carolina
2003-2011 = 510



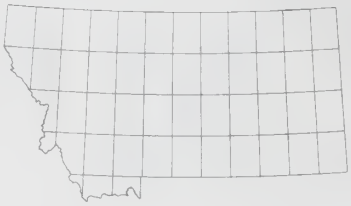


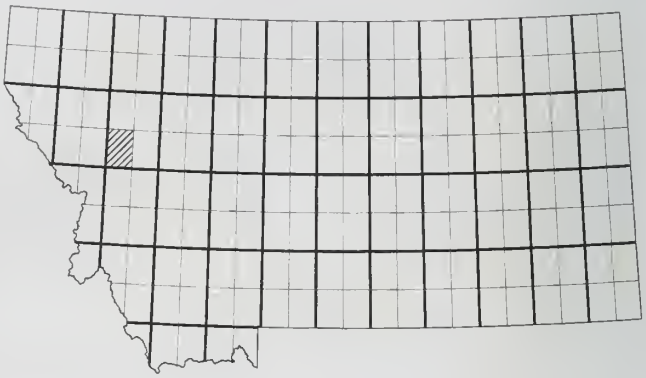


Common Gallinule

Gallinula galeata

2003-2011 = 0 R1

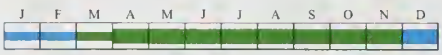


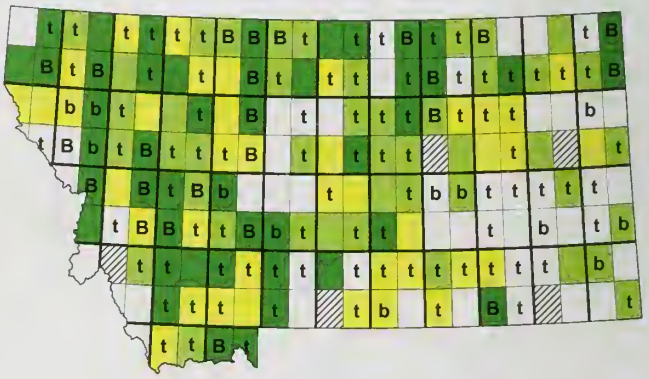


American Coot

Fulica americana

2003-2011 = 1688



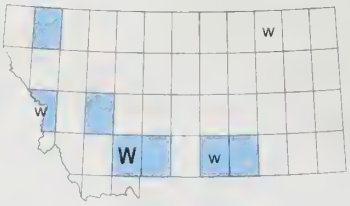


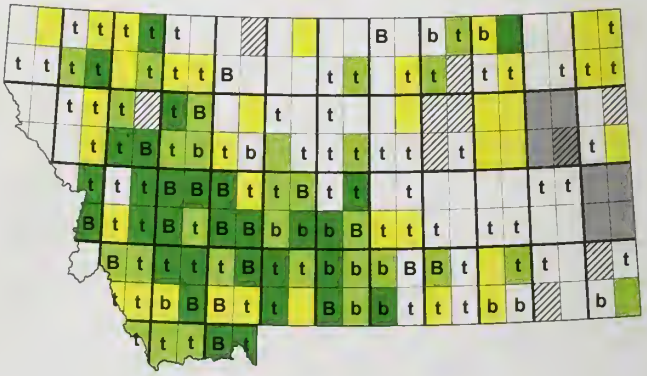
Gruidae

Sandhill Crane

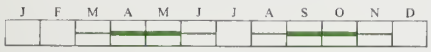
Grus canadensis

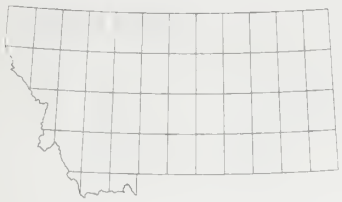
2003-2011 = 1123





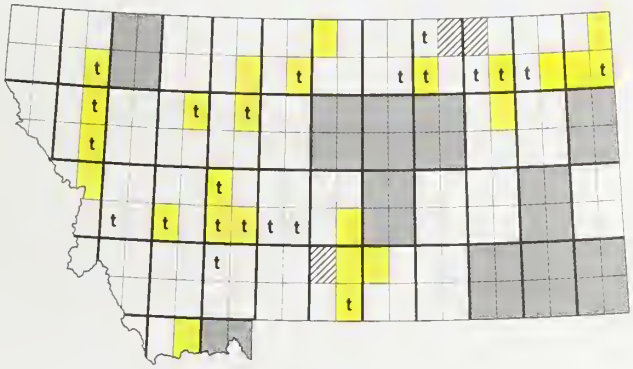
Whooping Crane
Grus americana
2003-2011 = 6 E



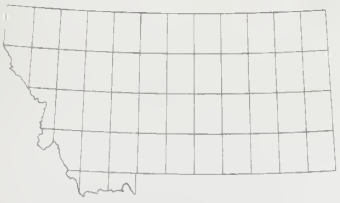


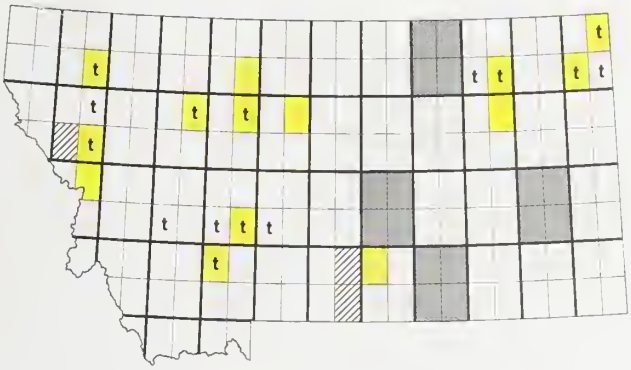
CHARADRIIFORMES Charadriidae

Black-bellied Plover
Pluvialis squatarola
2003-2011 = 82

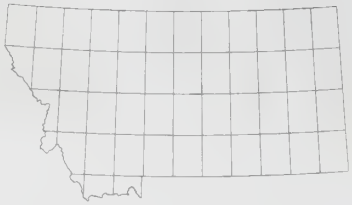


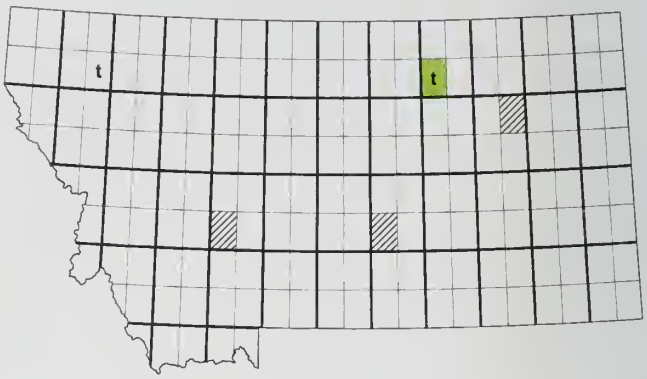
American Golden-Plover
Pluvialis dominica
2003-2011 = 30



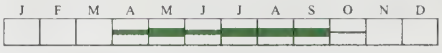


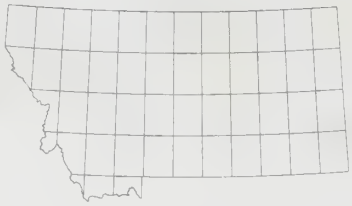
Snowy Plover
Charadrius nivosus
2003-2011 = 2 R1

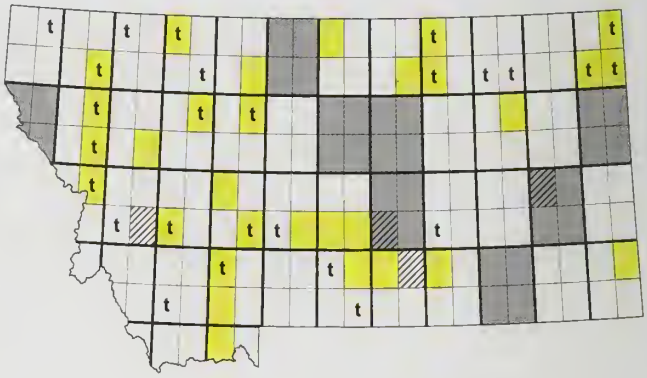




Semipalmated Plover
Charadrius semipalmatus
2003-2011 = 64



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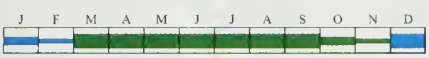
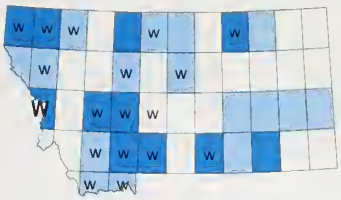
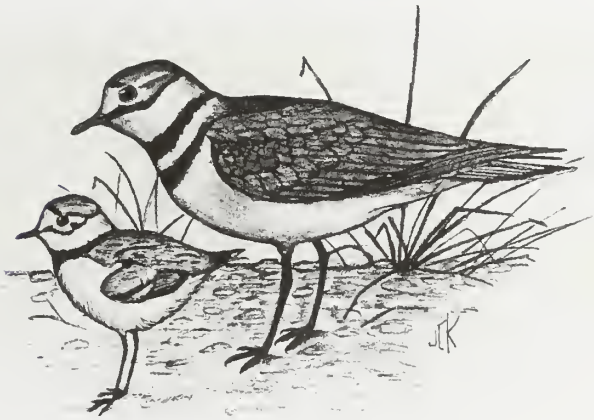
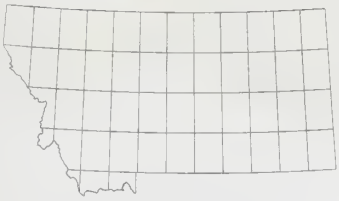
Killdeer
Charadrius vociferus
2003-2011 = 3564

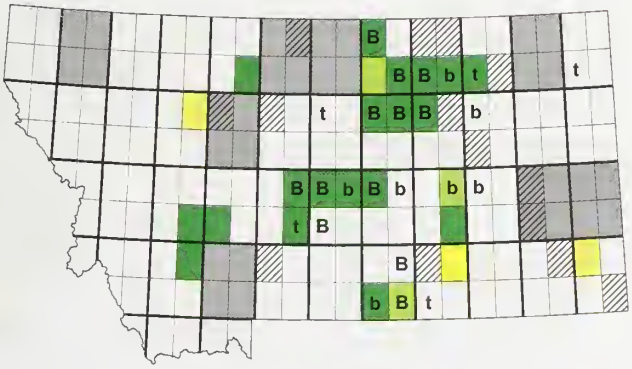




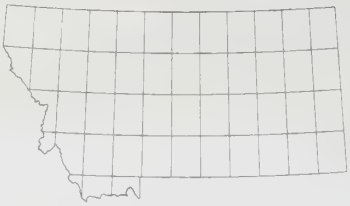


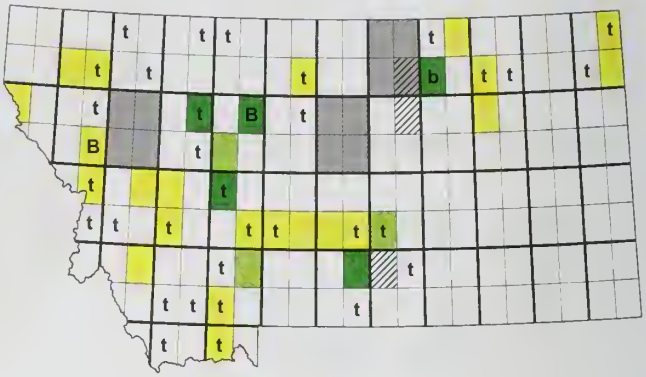
Mountain Plover
Charadrius montanus
2003-2011 = 1003 SOC



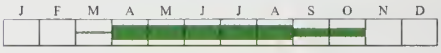


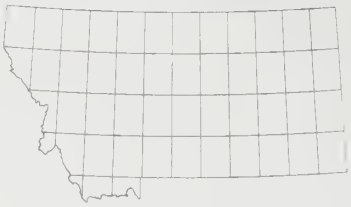
Black-necked Stilt
Himantopus mexicanus
2003-2011 = 170 SOC



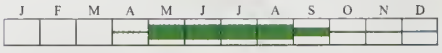


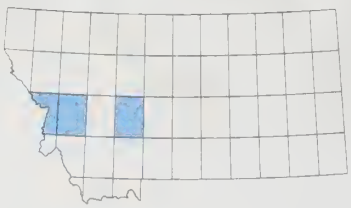
American Avocet
Recurvirostra americana
2003-2011 = 638

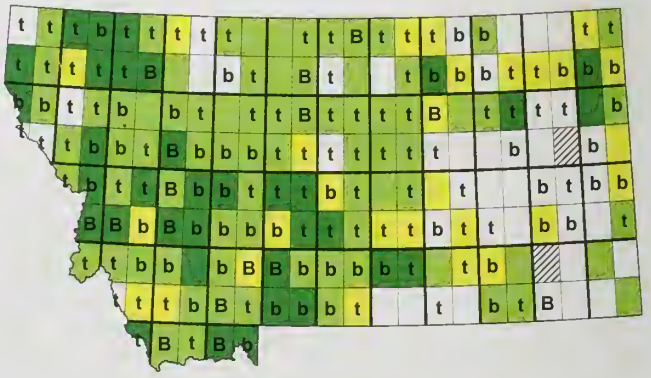




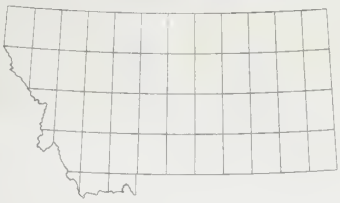
Spotted Sandpiper
Actitis macularius
2003-2011 = 1524

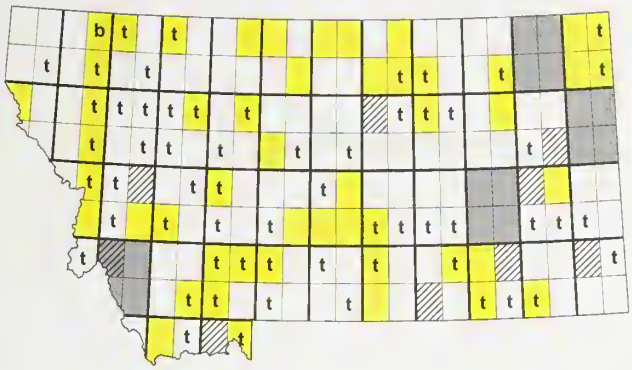




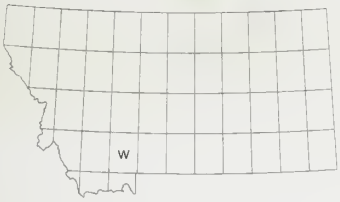


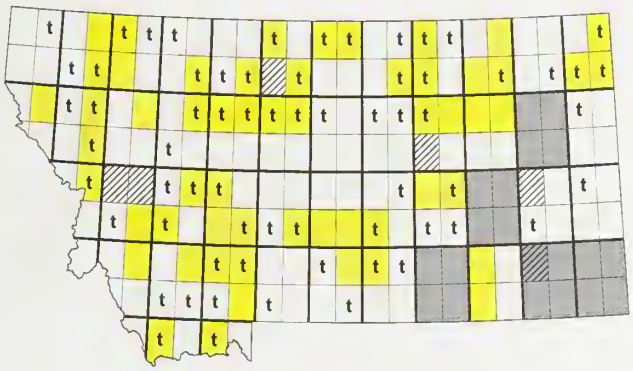
Solitary Sandpiper
Tringa solitaria
2003-2011 = 155



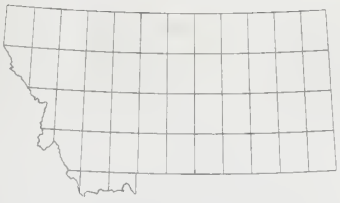


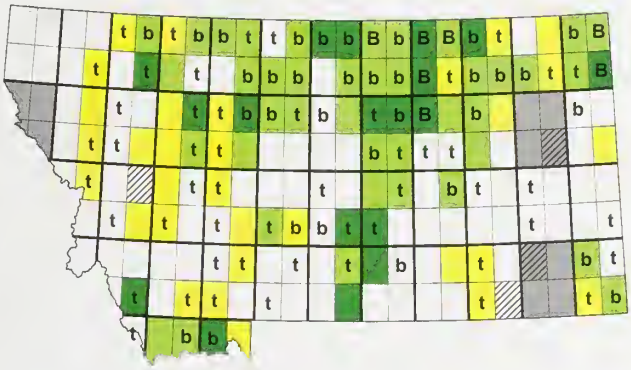
Greater Yellowlegs
Tringa melanoleuca
2003-2011 = 289



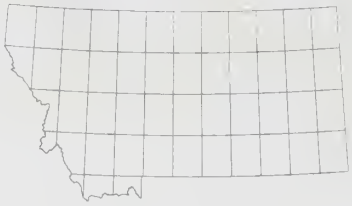


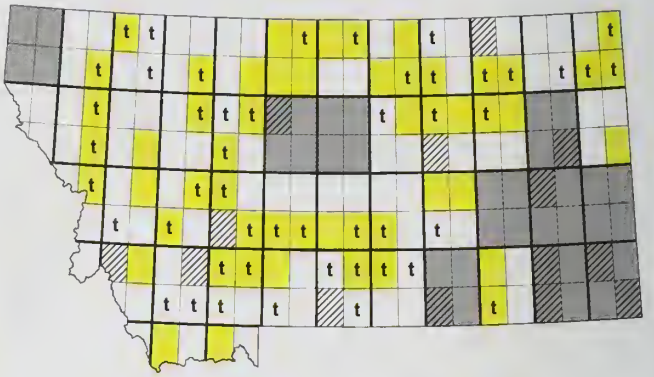
Willet
Tringa semipalmata
2003-2011 = 979



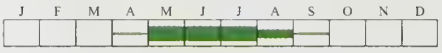


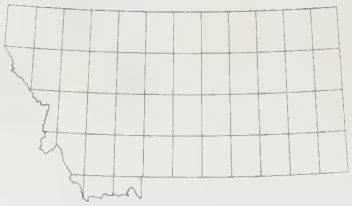
Lesser Yellowlegs
Tringa flavipes
2003-2011 = 218

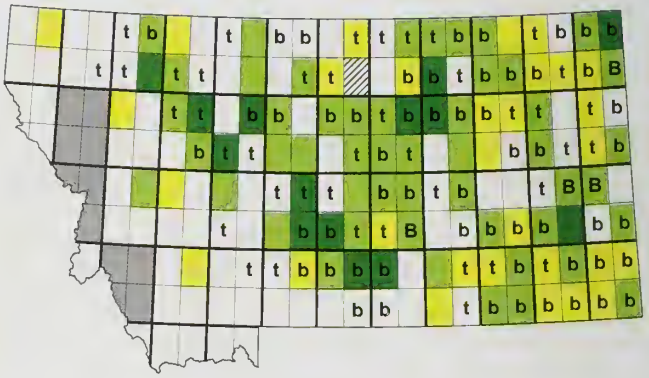




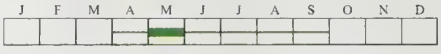
Upland Sandpiper
Bartramia longicauda
2003-2011 = 970 SI

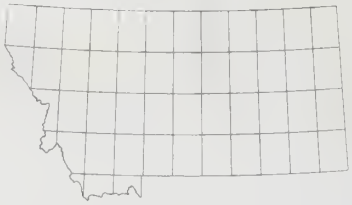






Whimbrel
Numenius phaeopus
2003-2011 = 13

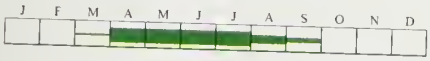


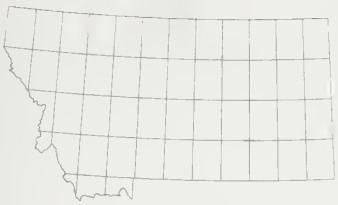


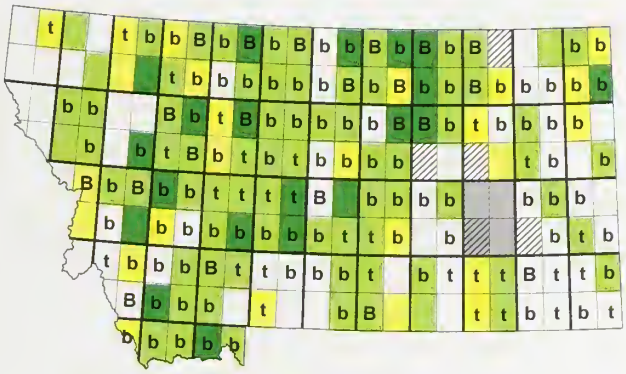
Long-billed Curlew

Numenius americanus

2003-2011 = 1997 SOC



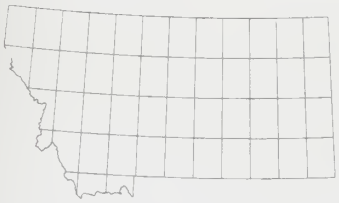




Hudsonian Godwit

Limosa haemastica

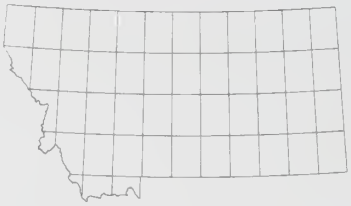
2003-2011 = 14

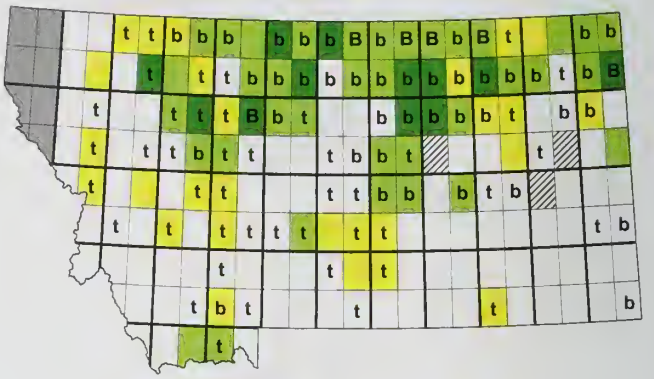


Marbled Godwit

Limosa fedoa

2003-2011 = 1351

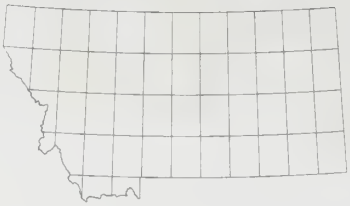


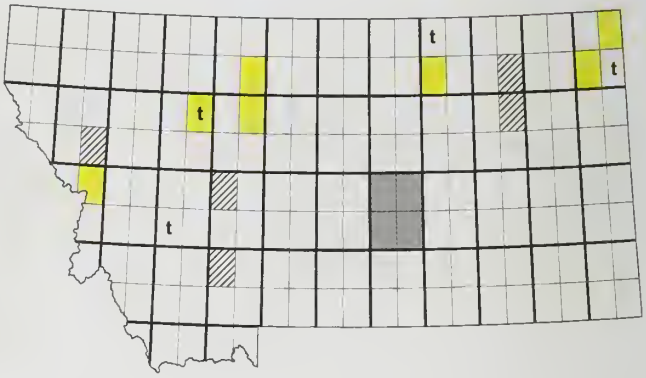


Ruddy Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

2003-2011 = 7

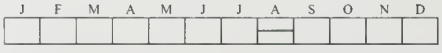


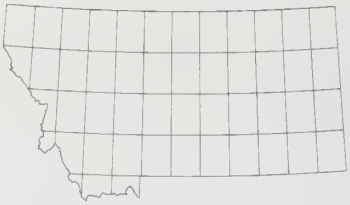


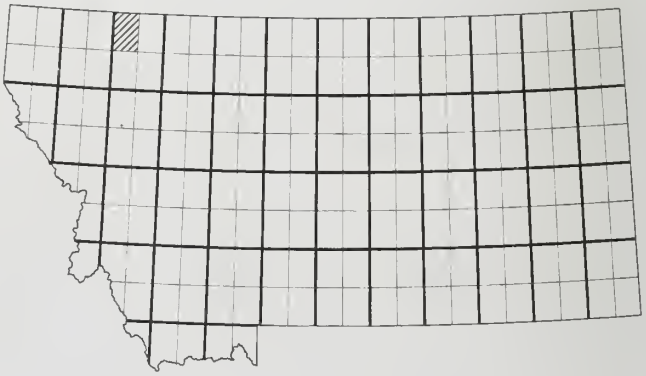
Black Turnstone

Arenaria melanocephala

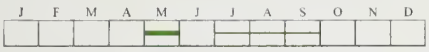
2003-2011 = 0 R1

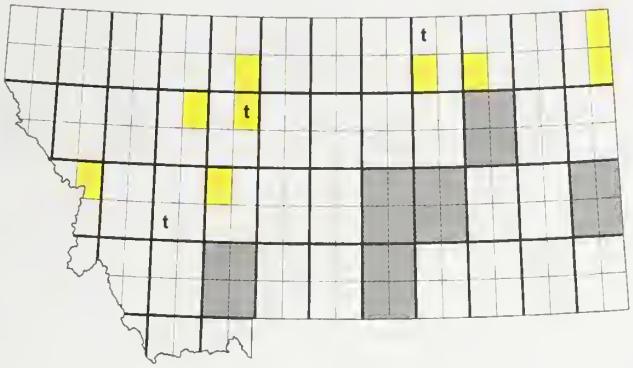






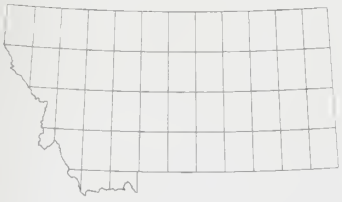
Red Knot
Calidris canutus
2003-2011 = 4

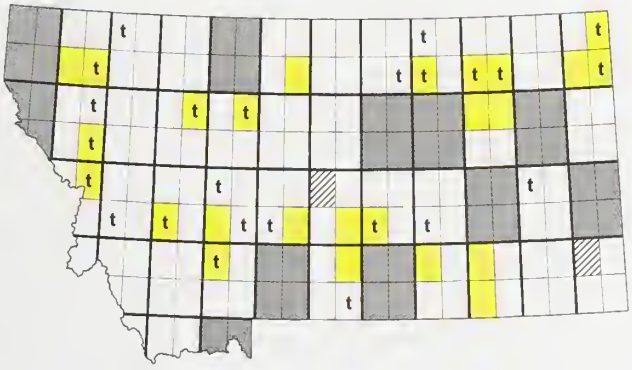




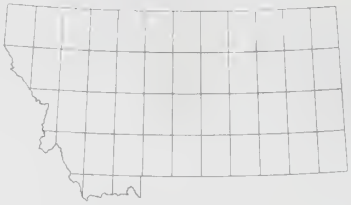
Sanderling
Calidris alba
2003-2011 = 72

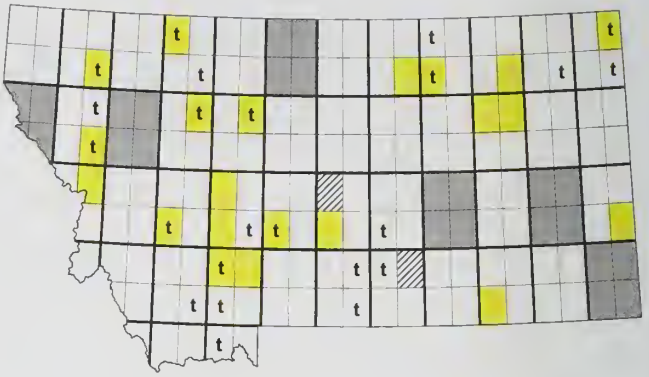
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Calidris pusilla
2003-2011 = 105



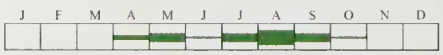


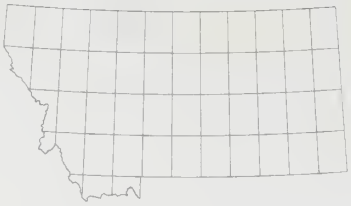
Western Sandpiper
Calidris mauri
2003-2011 = 61



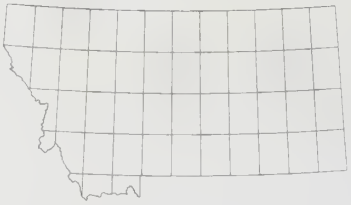


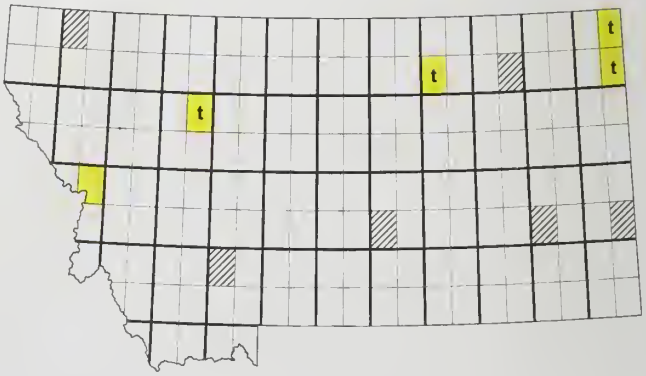
Least Sandpiper
Calidris minutilla
2003-2011 = 97



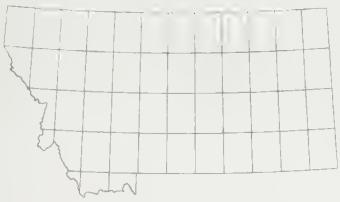


White-rumped Sandpiper
Calidris fuscicollis
2003-2011 = 16



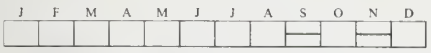


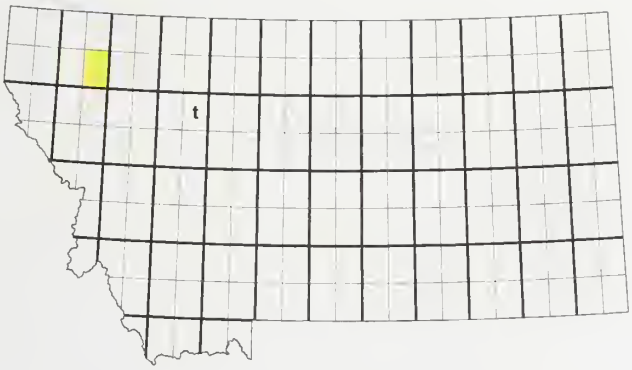
Baird's Sandpiper
Calidris bairdii
2003-2011 = 147



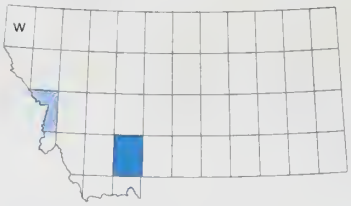
Pectoral Sandpiper
Calidris melanotos
2003-2011 = 80

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Calidris acuminata
2003-2011 = 1 R1

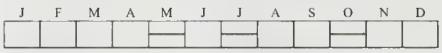


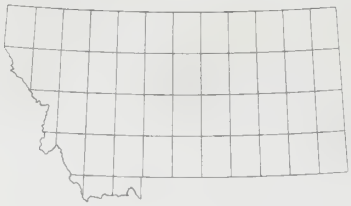


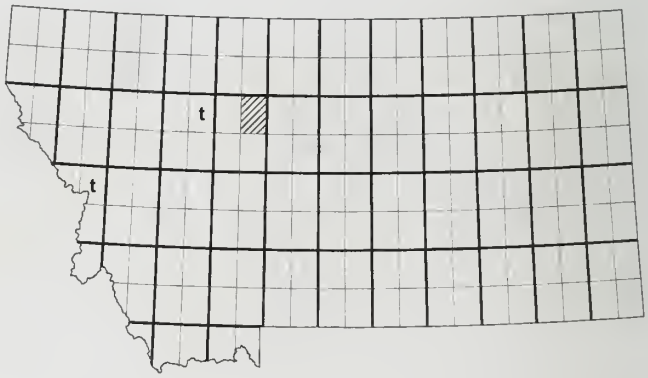
Dunlin
Calidris alpine
2003-2011 = 17



Curlew Sandpiper
Calidris ferruginea
2003-2011 = 2 R1

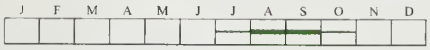


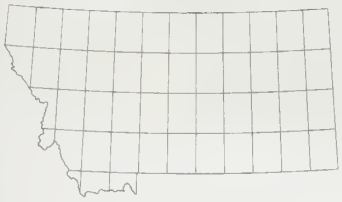


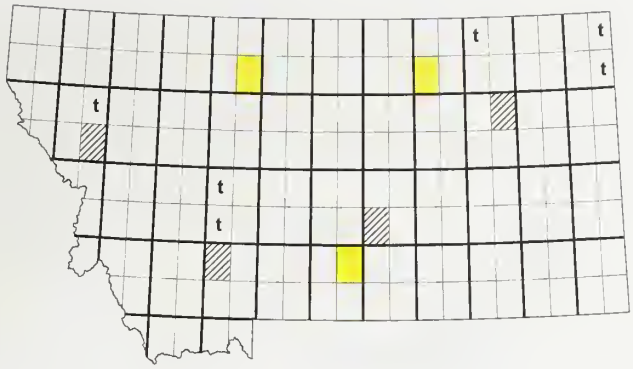


Stilt Sandpiper
Calidris himantopus
2003-2011 = 56

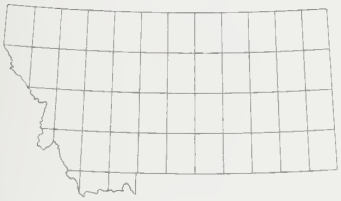
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Tryngites subruficollis
2003-2011 = 10

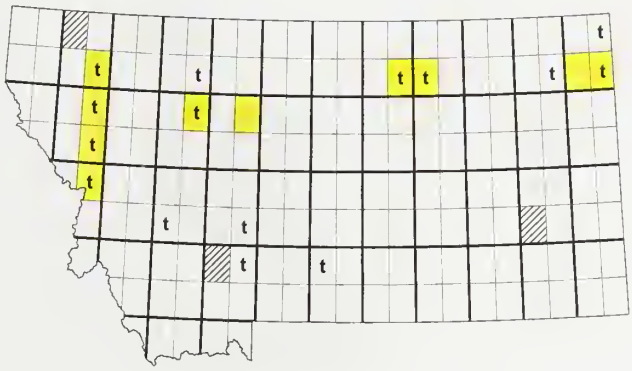




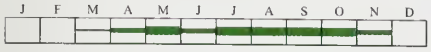


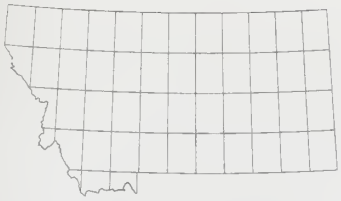
Short-billed Dowitcher
Limnodromus griseus
2003-2011 = 29

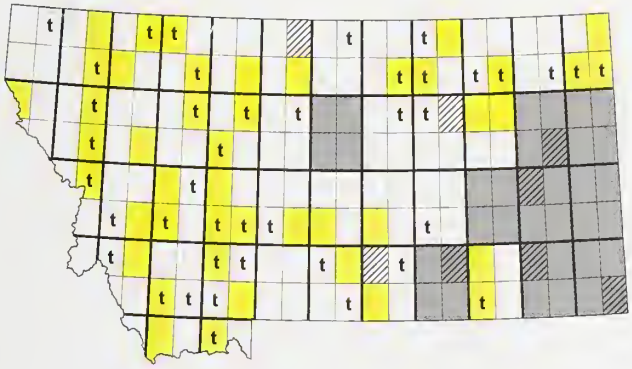




Long-billed Dowitcher
Limnodromus scolopaceus
2003-2011 = 178



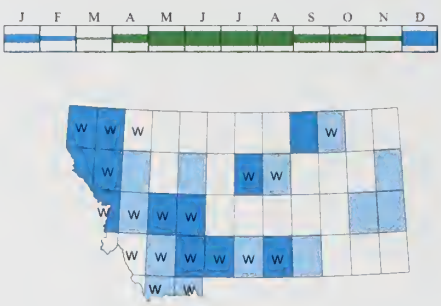




Wilson's Snipe

Gallinago delicata

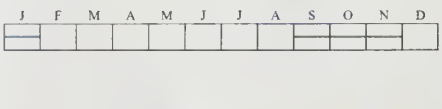
2003-2011 = 2011

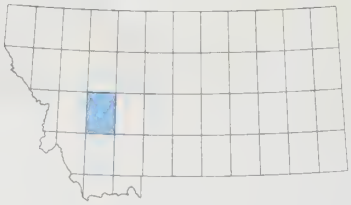


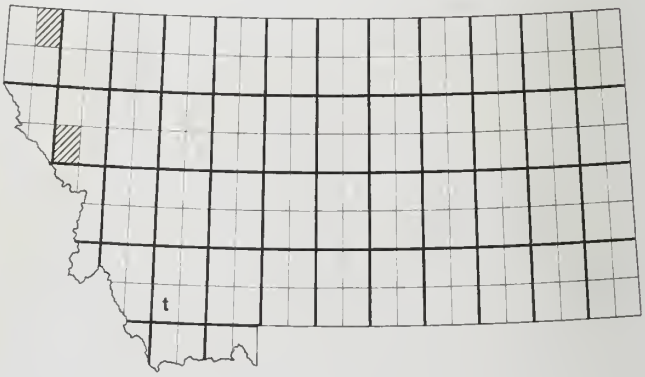
American Woodcock

Scolopax minor

2003-2011 = 1 R1



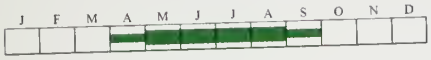


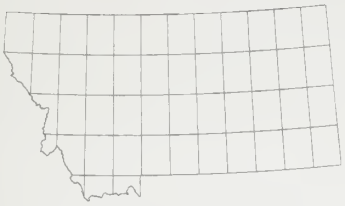


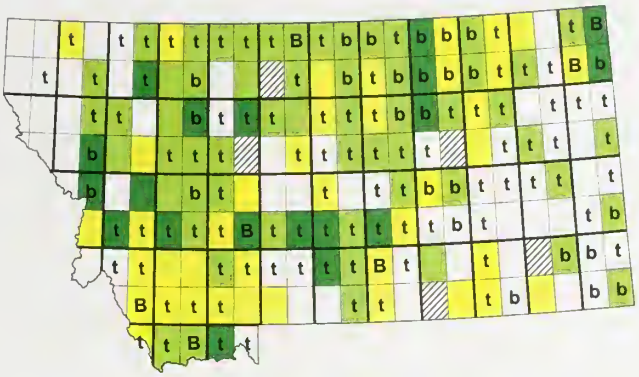
Wilson's Phalarope

Phalaropus tricolor

2003-2011 = 918



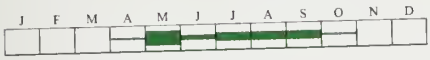


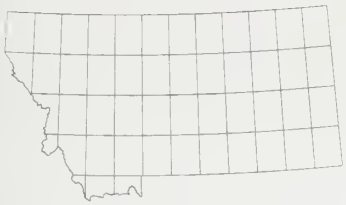


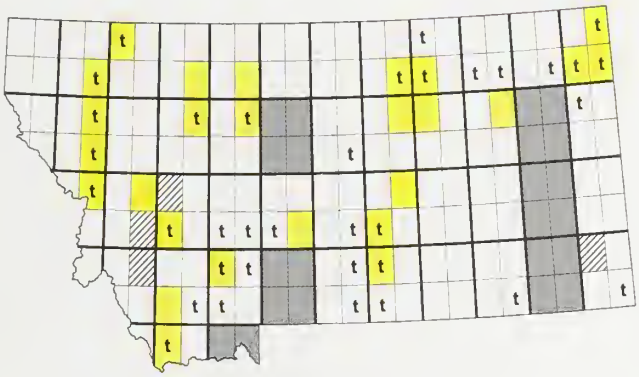
Red-necked Phalarope

Phalaropus lobatus

2003-2011 = 130



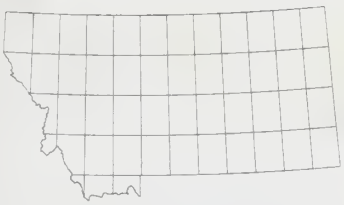




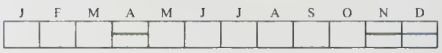
Red Phalarope

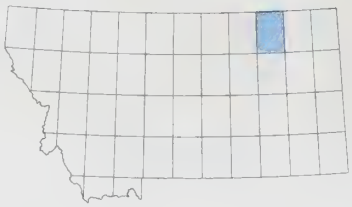
Phalaropus fulicarius

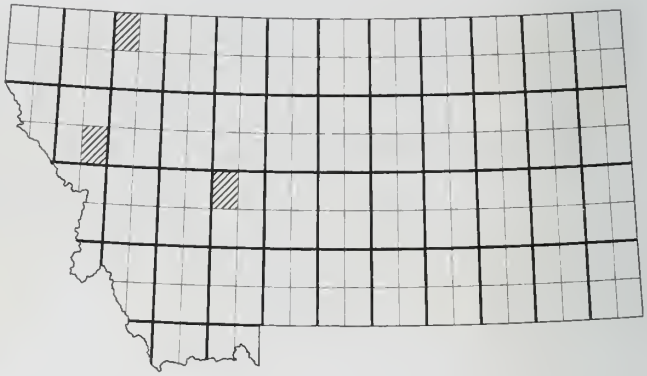
2003-2011 = 6 R1



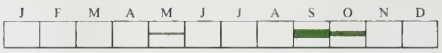
Black-legged Kittiwake
Rissa tridactyla
2003-2011 = 0 R1

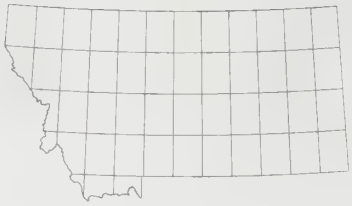


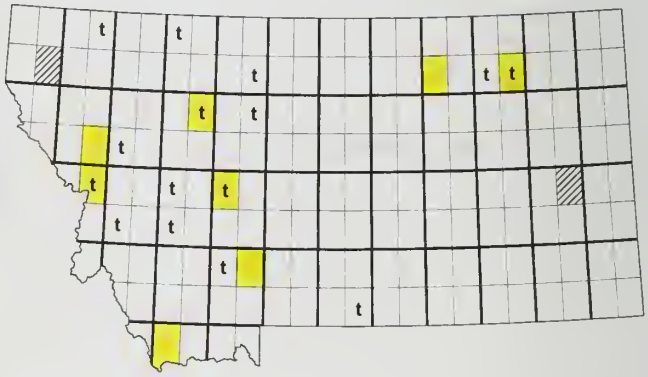




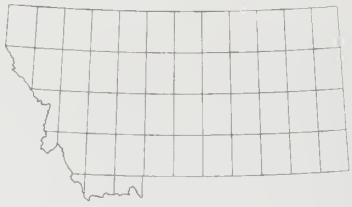
Sabine's Gull
Xema sabini
2003-2011 = 24

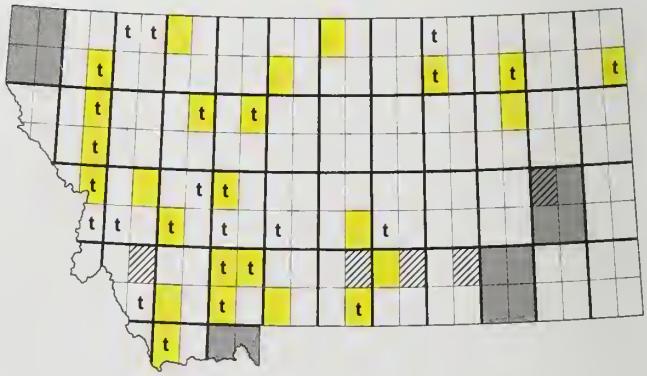




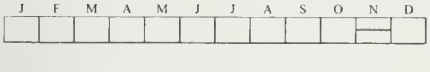


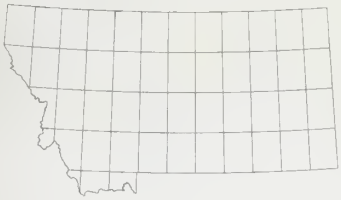
Bonaparte's Gull
Chroicocephalus philadelphia
2003-2011 = 84

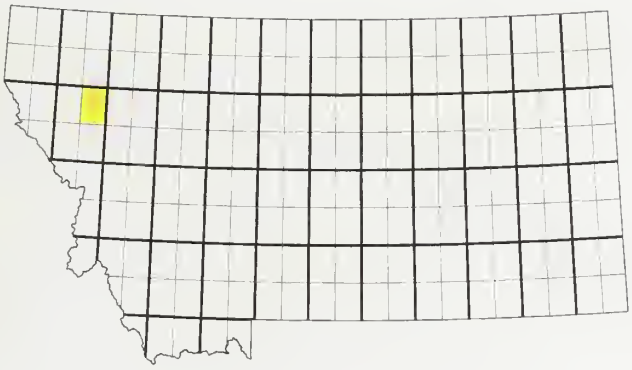




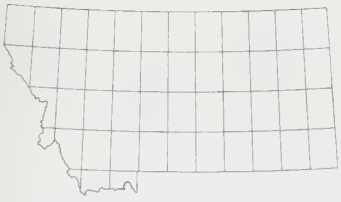
Little Gull
Hydrocoloeus minutus
2003-2011 = 0 R1

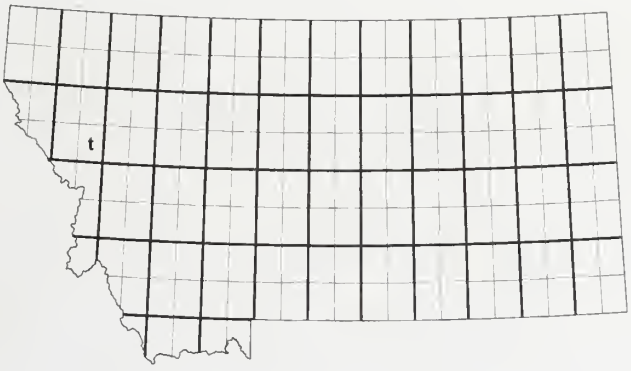




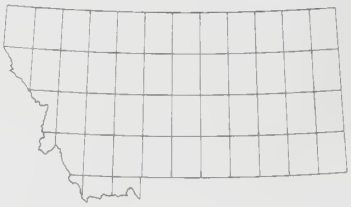


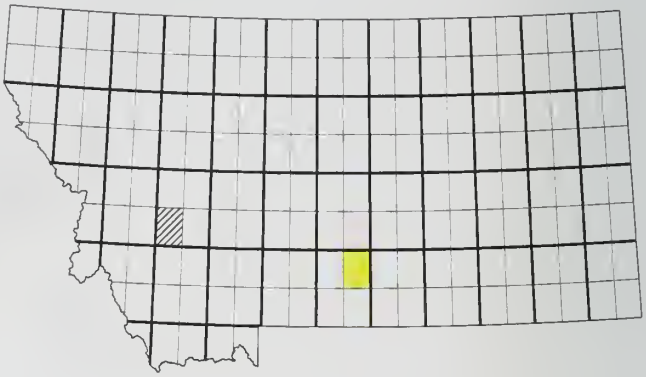
Ross's Gull
Rhodostethia rosea
2003-2011 = 1 R1



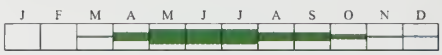


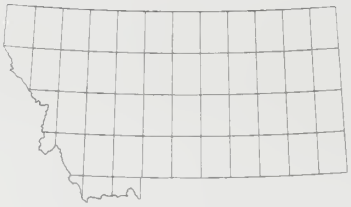
Laughing Gull
Leucophaeus atricilla
2003-2011 = 0 R1

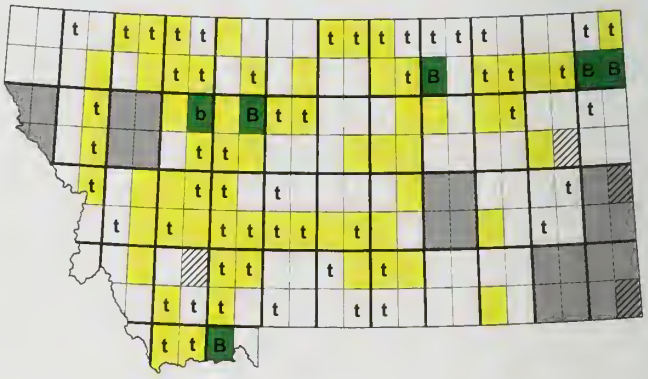




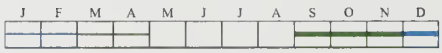
Franklin's Gull
Leucophaeus pipixcan
2003-2011 = 416 SOC

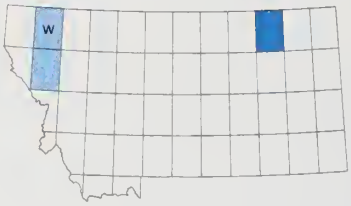


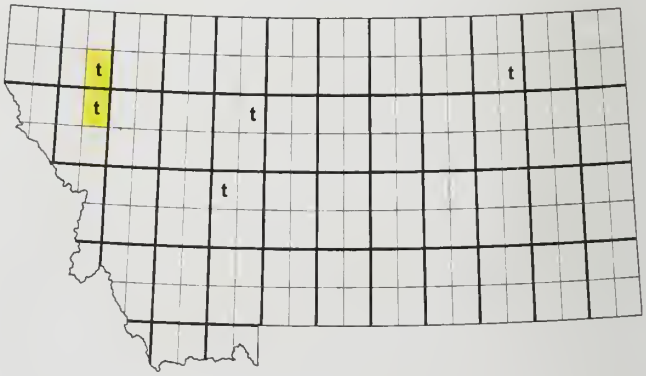




Mew Gull
Larus canus
2003-2011 = 15



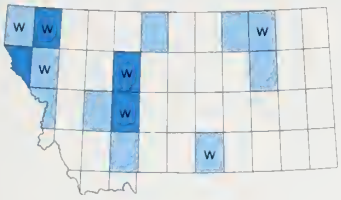


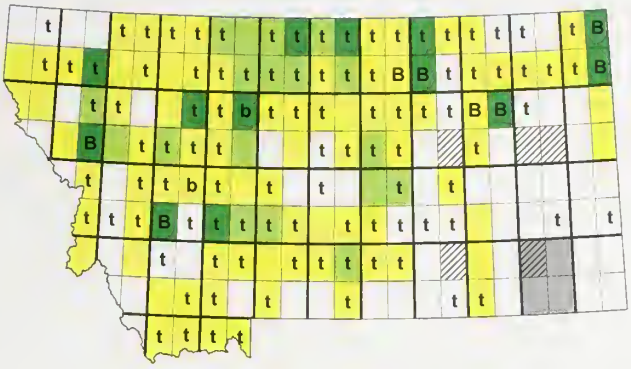


Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

2003-2011 = 1285

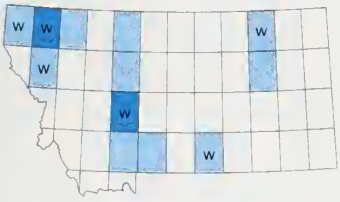




California Gull

Larus californicus

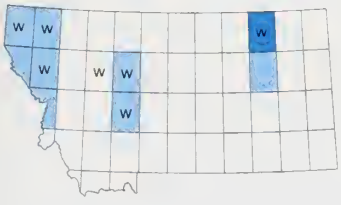
2003-2011 = 667

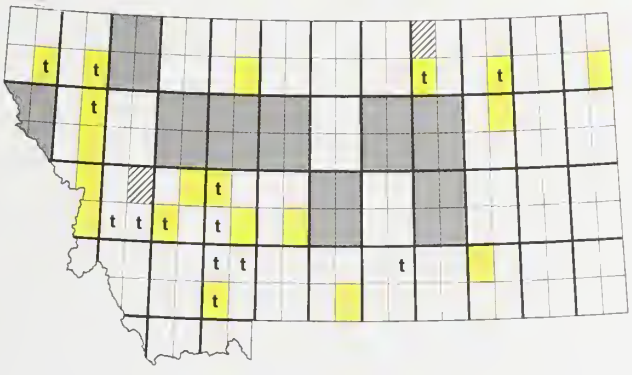


Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

2003-2011 = 80

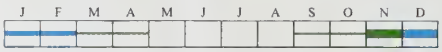


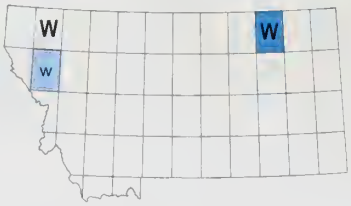


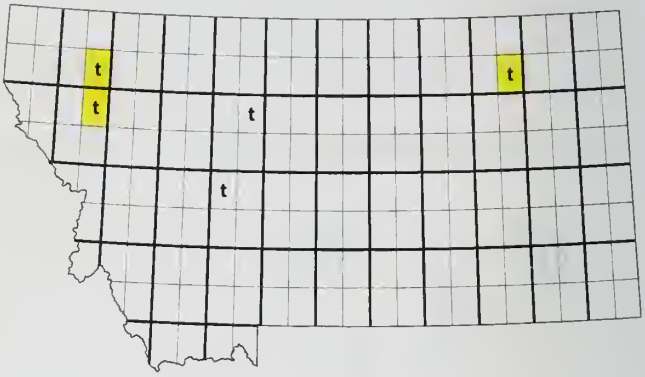
Thayer's Gull

Larus thayeri

2003-2011 = 34



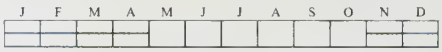


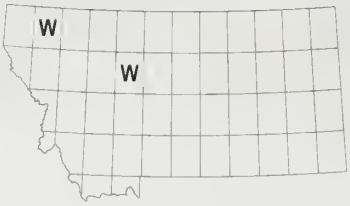


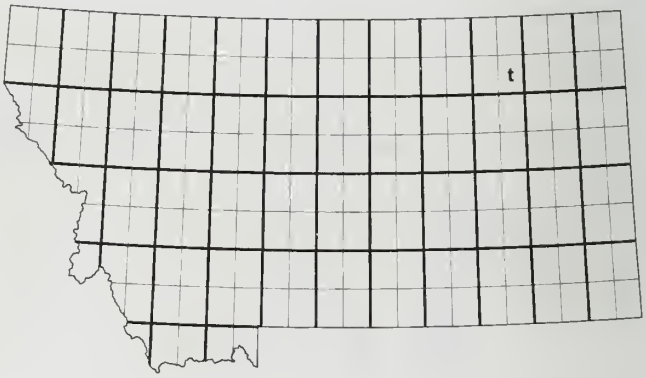
Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides

2003-2011 = 5 R1



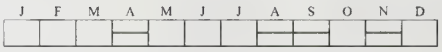


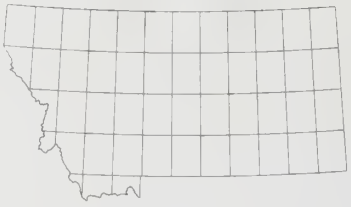


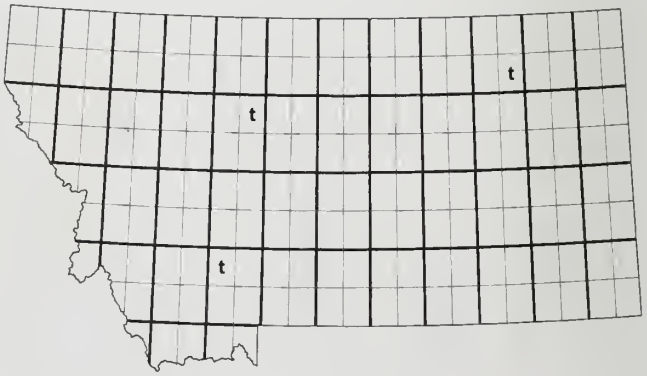
Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

2003-2011 = 6 R1



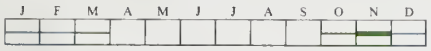


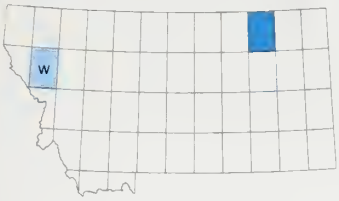


Glaucous-winged Gull

Larus glaucescens

2003-2011 = 8 R2

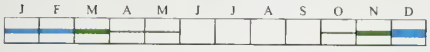


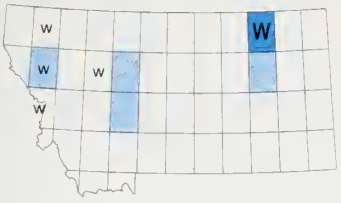


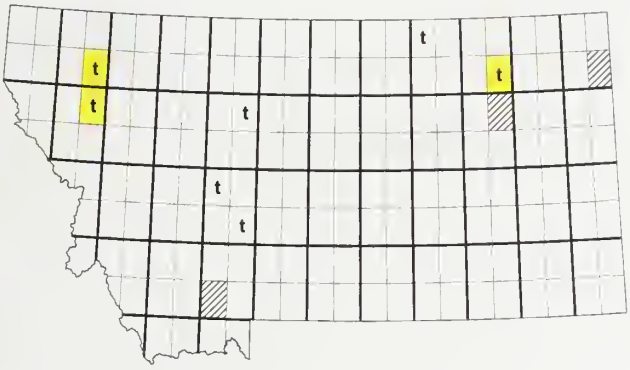
Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

2003-2011 = 24



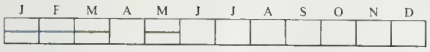


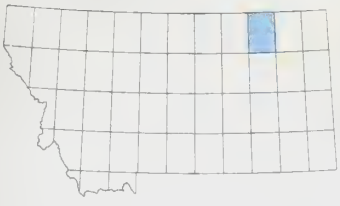


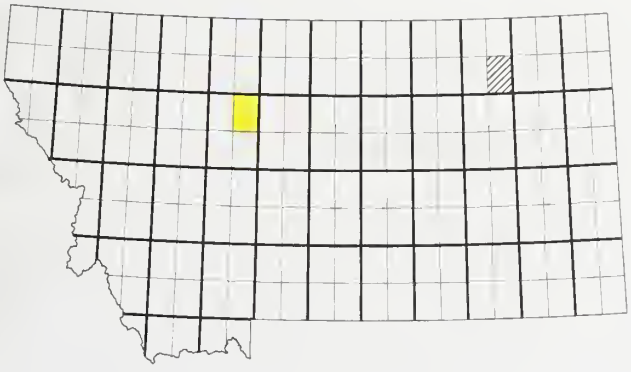
Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

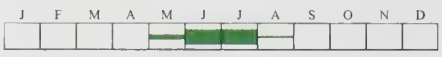
2003-2011 = 0 R1

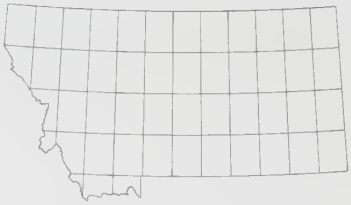


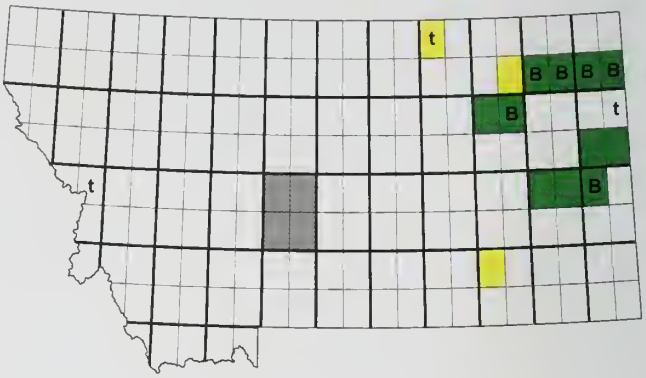




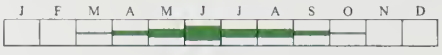
Least Tern
Sternula antillarum
2003-2011 = 219 E

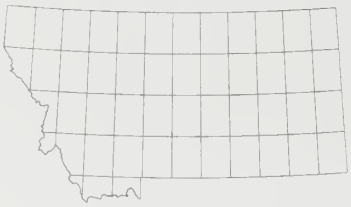


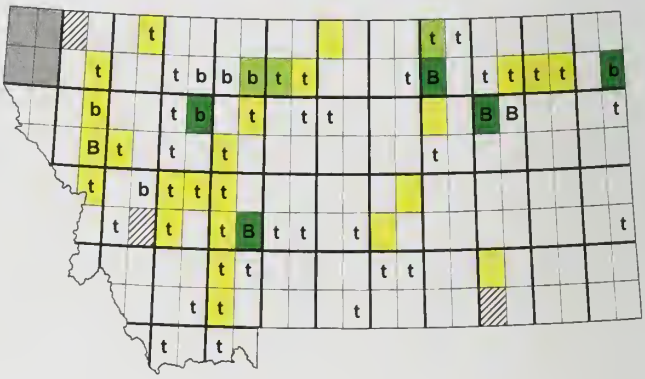




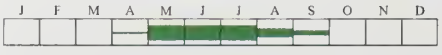
Caspian Tern
Hydroprogne caspia
2003-2011 = 150 SOC

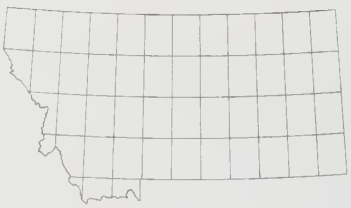




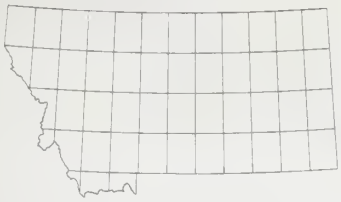


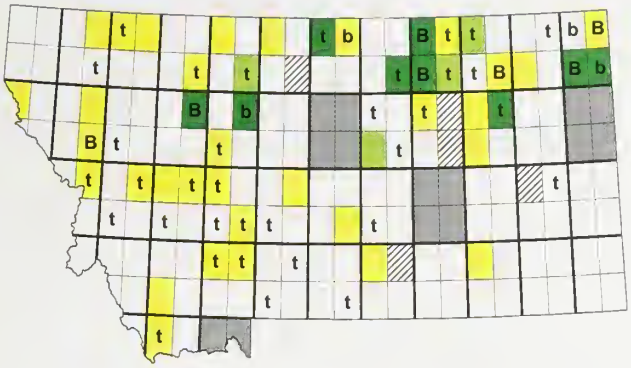
Black Tern
Chlidonias niger
2003-2011 = 207 SOC



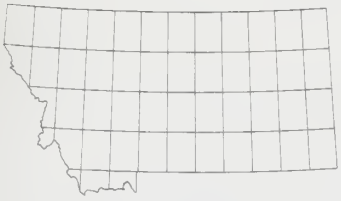


Common Tern
Sterna hirundo
2003-2011 = 157 SOC

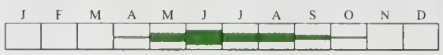


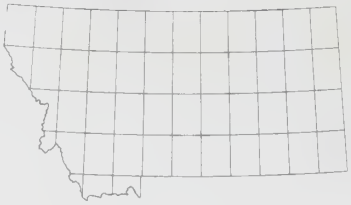


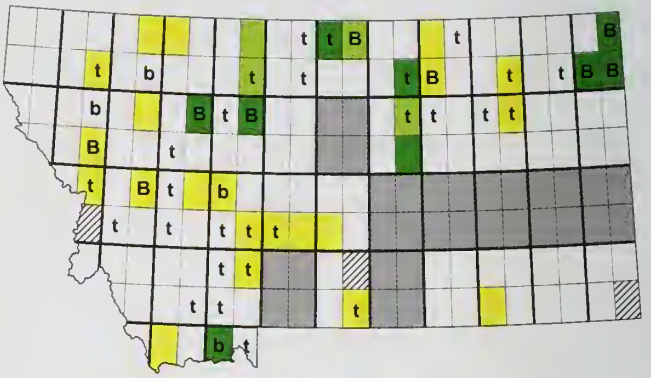
Arctic Tern
Sterna paradisaea
2003-2011 = 2 R1



Forster's Tern
Sterna forsteri
2003-2011 = 147 SOC

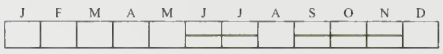


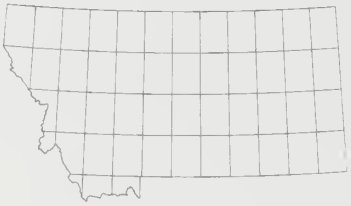


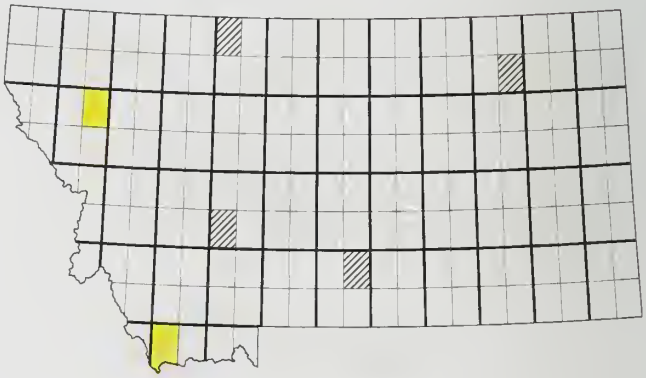


Stercorariidae

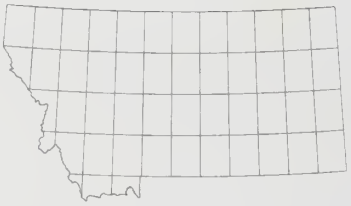
Pomarine Jaeger
Stercorarius pomarinus
2003-2011 = 0 R1

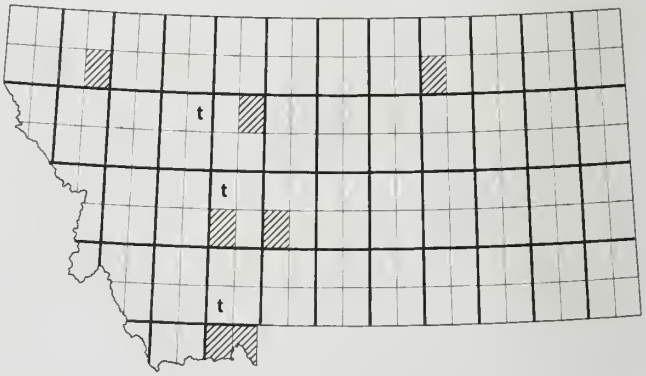




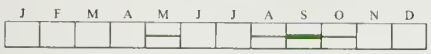


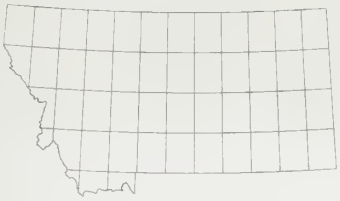
Parasitic Jaeger
Stercorarius parasiticus
2003-2011 = 6 R1

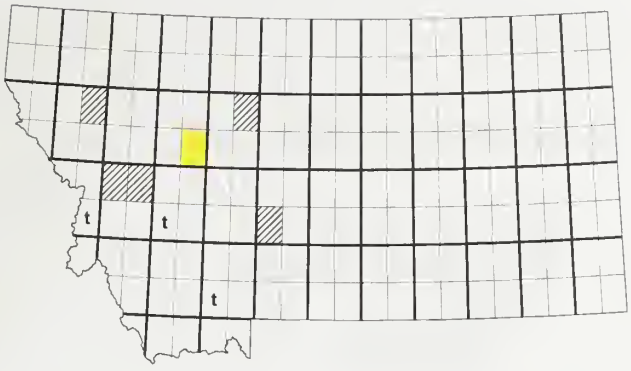




Long-tailed Jaeger
Stercorarius longicaudus
2003-2011 = 3 R1

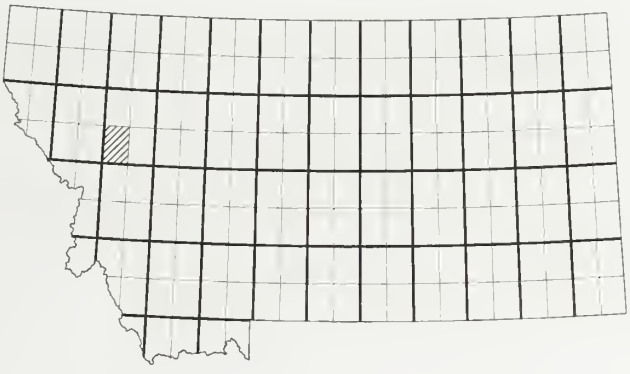




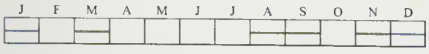


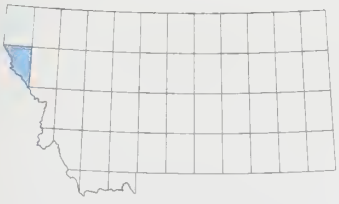
Alcidae

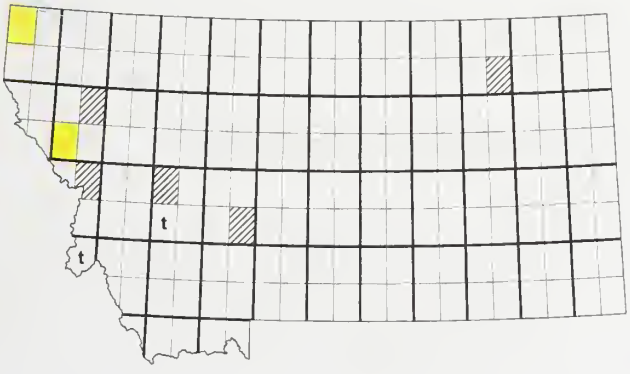
Long-billed Murrelet
Brachyramphus perdix
2003-2011 = 0 R1



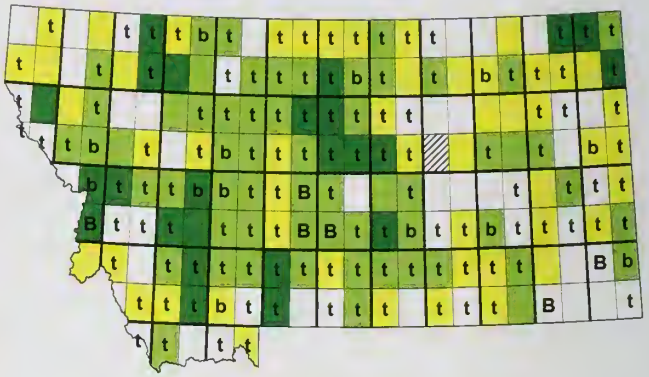
Ancient Murrelet
Synthliboramphus antiquus
2003-2011 = 2 R1



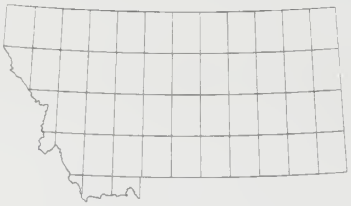




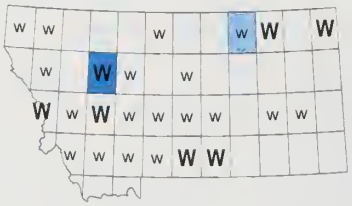
Rock Pigeon
Columba livia
2003-2011 = 1323

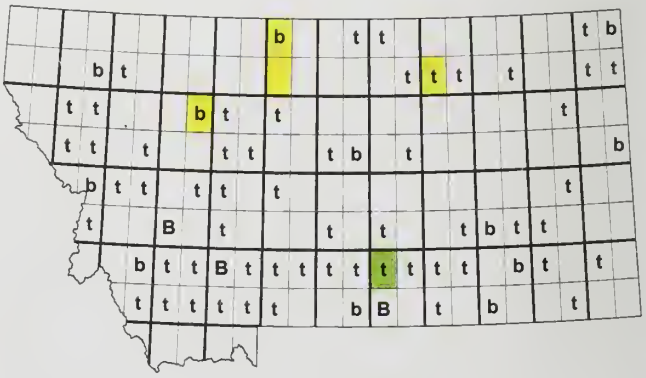


Band-tailed Pigeon
Patagioenas fasciata
2003-2011 = 3



Eurasian Collared-Dove
Streptopelia decaocto
2003-2011 = 427

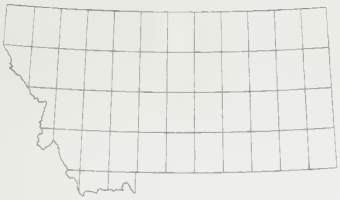




White-winged Dove

Zenaida asiatica

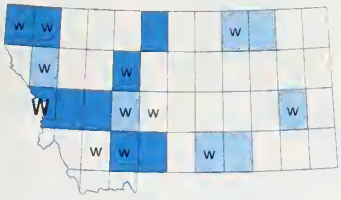
2003-2011 = 16 R1

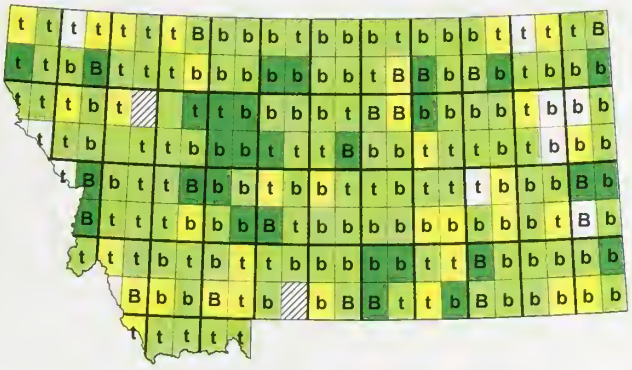


Mourning Dove

Zenaida macroura

2003-2011 = 6936

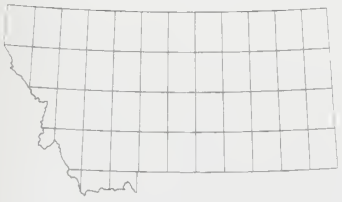


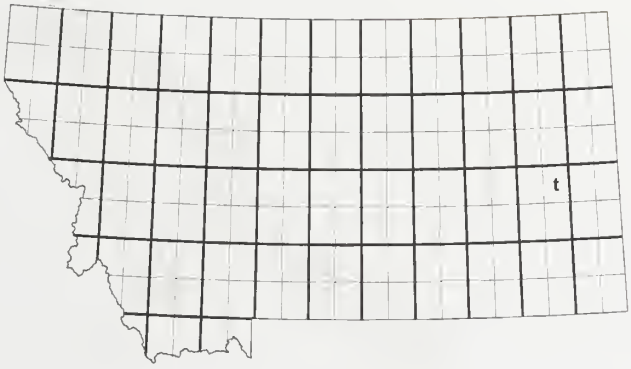


Inca Dove

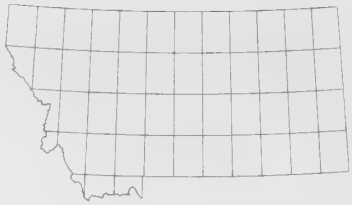
Columbina inca

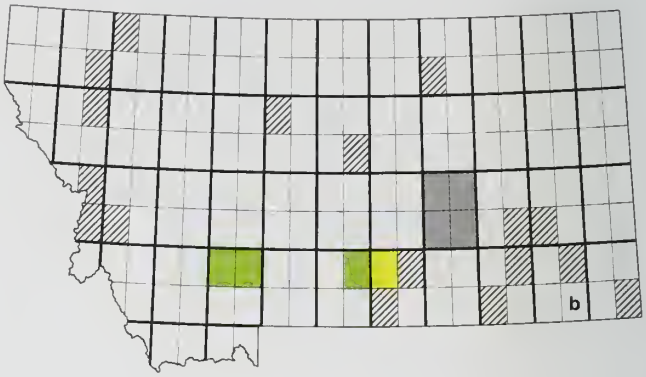
2003-2011 = 1 R1



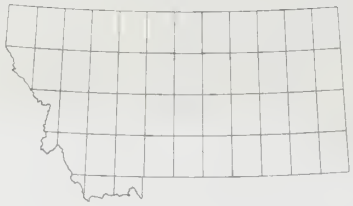


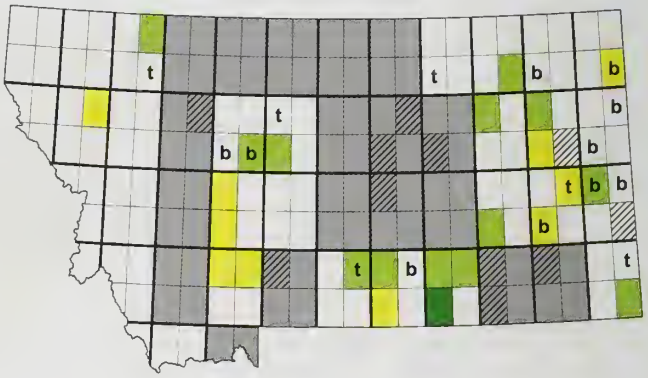
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus americanus
2003-2011 = 1 C R3



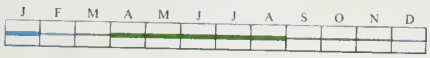


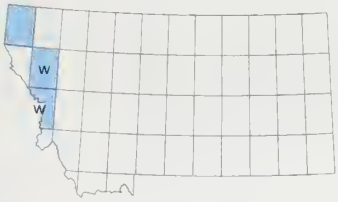
Black-billed Cuckoo
Coccyzus erythropthalmus
2003-2011 = 23 SOC



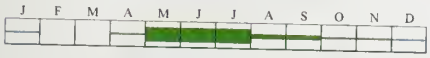


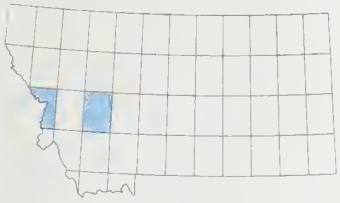
Barn Owl
Tyto alba
2003-2011 = 27

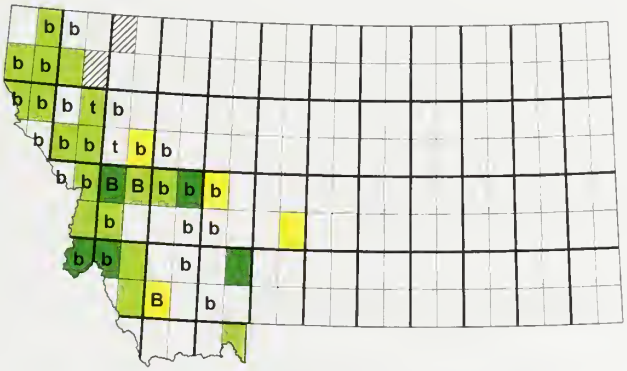




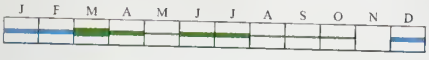
Flammulated Owl
Otus flammeolus
2003-2011 = 509 SOC

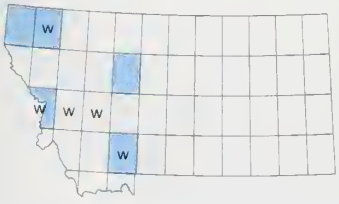


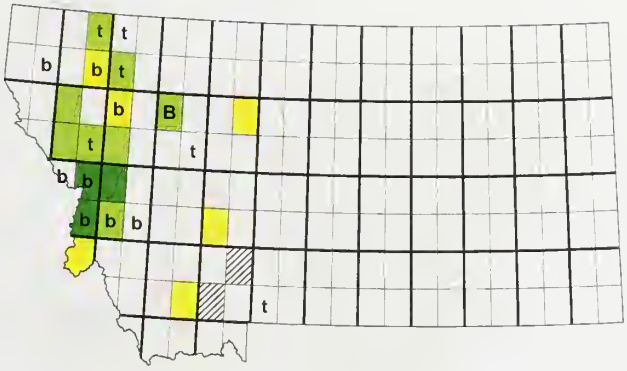




Western Screech-Owl
Megascops kennicottii
2003-2011 = 48 SI



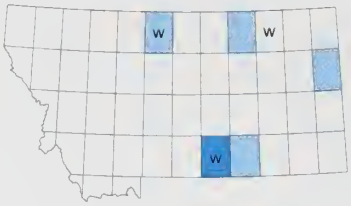


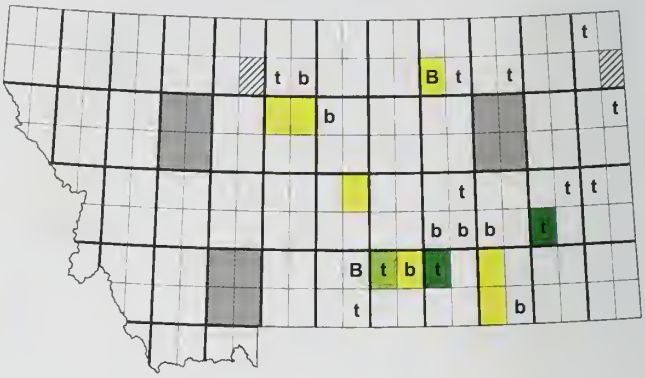


Eastern Screech-Owl

Megascops asio

2003-2011 = 44 SI

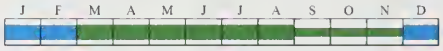


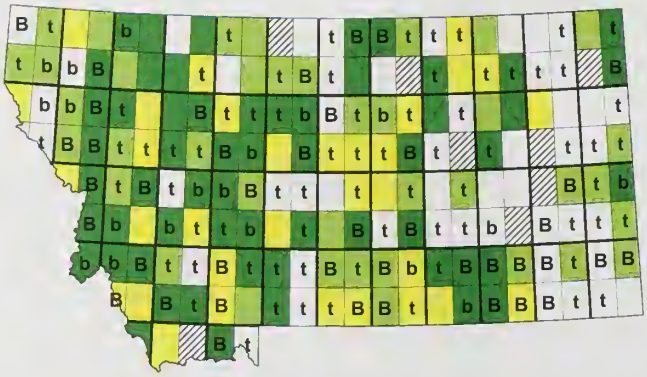


Great Horned Owl

Bubo virginianus

2003-2011 = 730

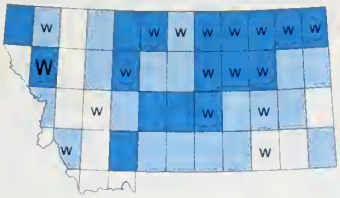


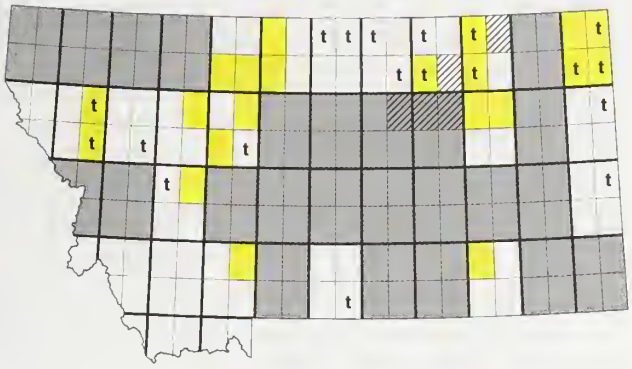


Snowy Owl

Bubo scandiacus

2003-2011 = 155

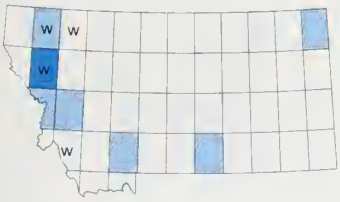




Northern Hawk Owl

Surnia ulula

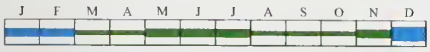
2003-2011 = 38 SOC

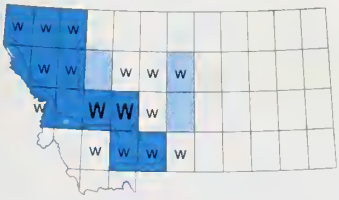


Northern Pygmy-Owl

Glaucidium gnoma

2003-2011 = 171

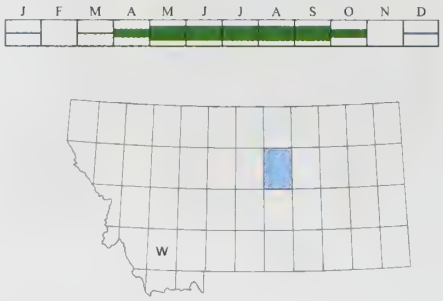


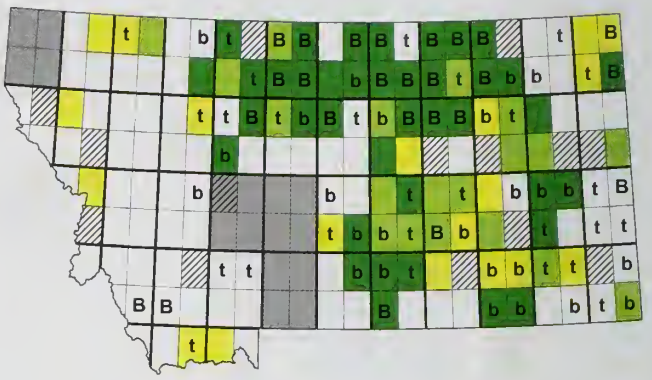


Burrowing Owl

Athene cunicularia

2003-2011 = 522 SOC

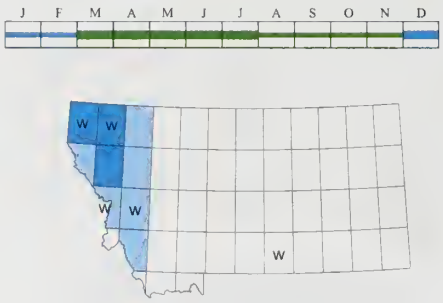




Barred Owl

Strix varia

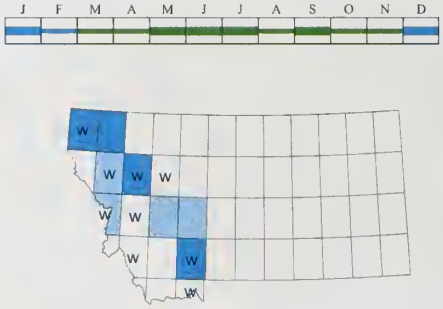
2003-2011 = 81 SI

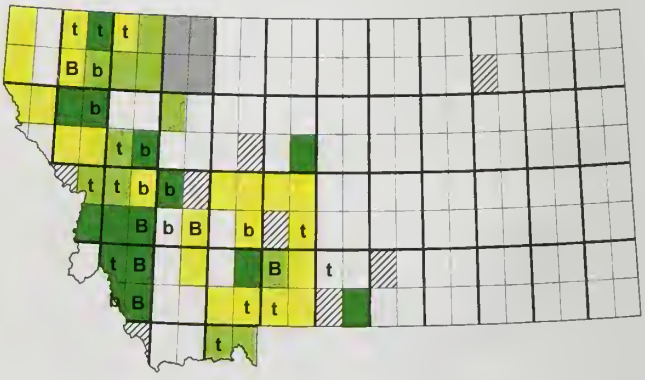


Great Gray Owl

Strix nebulosa

2003-2011 = 77 SOC

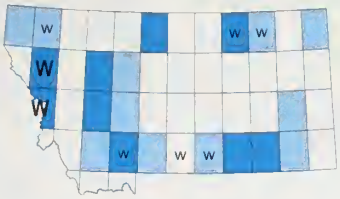


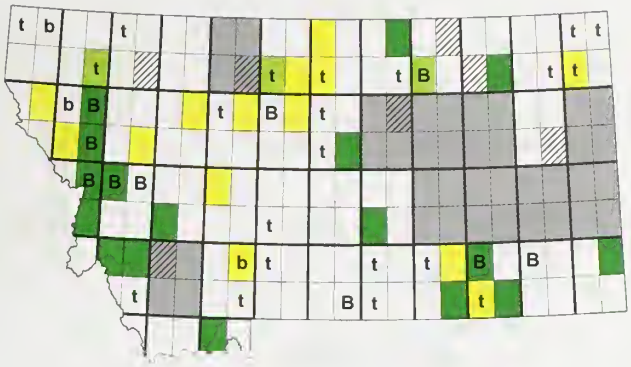


Long-eared Owl

Asio otus

2003-2011 = 206

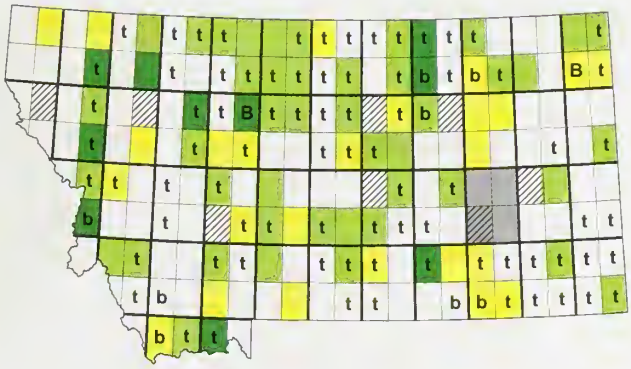




Short-eared Owl

Asio flammeus

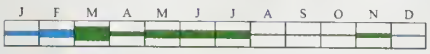
2003-2011 = 392 SI

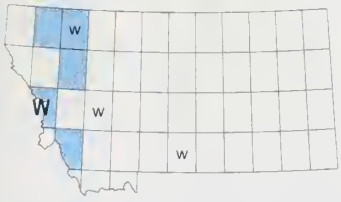


Boreal Owl

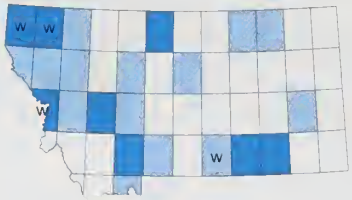
Aegolius funereus

2003-2011 = 34 SI



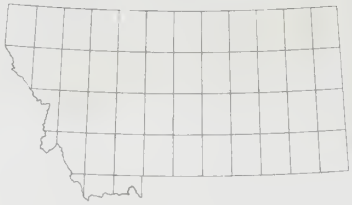


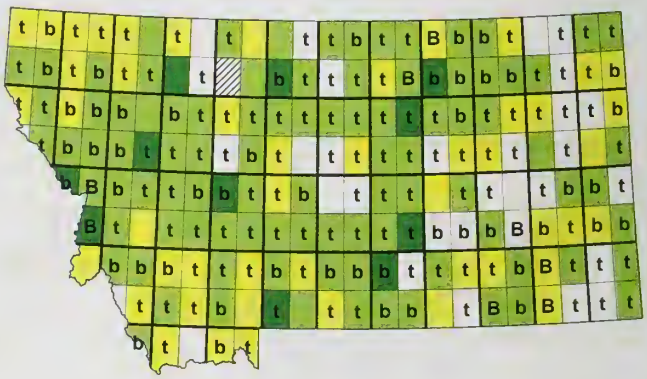
Northern Saw-whet Owl
Aegolius acadicus
2003-2011 = 128



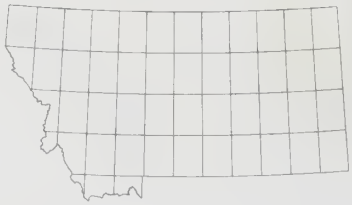
CAPRIMULGIFORMES Caprimulgidae

Common Nighthawk
Chordeiles minor
2003-2011 = 1367

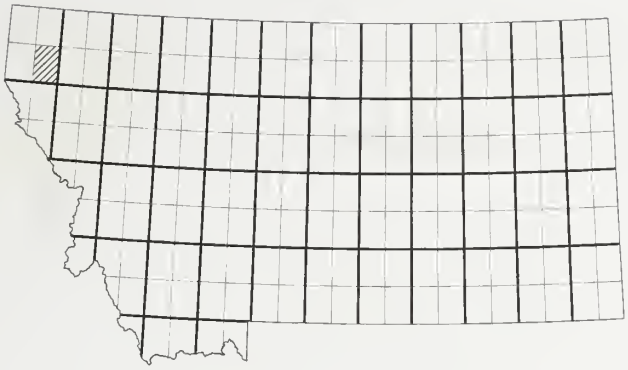




Common Poorwill
Phalaenoptilus nuttallii
2003-2011 = 81 SI

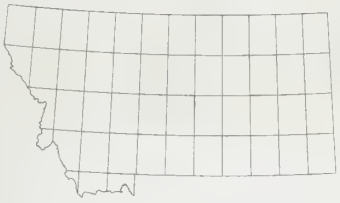


Whip-poor-will
Caprimulgus sp.
2003-2011 = 0 R1

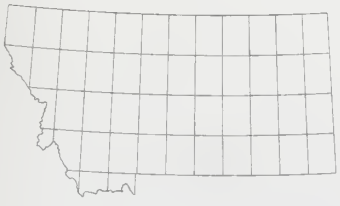


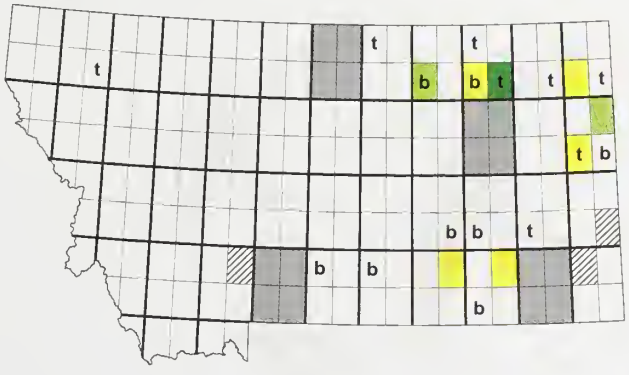
APODIFORMES Apodidae

Black Swift
Cypseloides niger
2003-2011 = 47 SOC

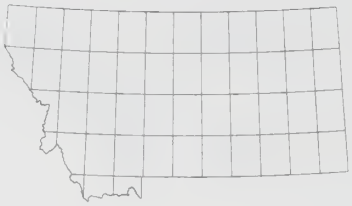


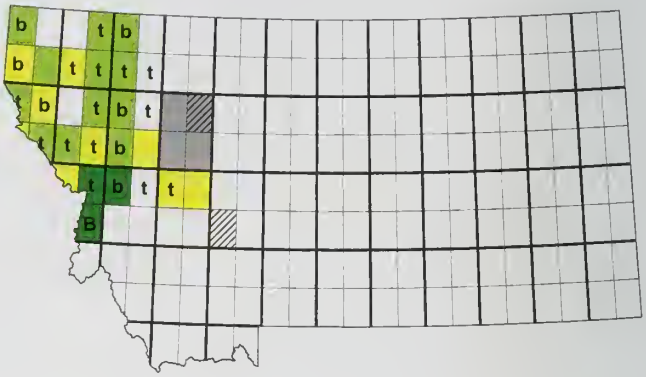
Chimney Swift
Chaetura pelagica
2003-2011 = 32 SI



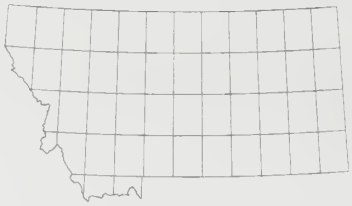


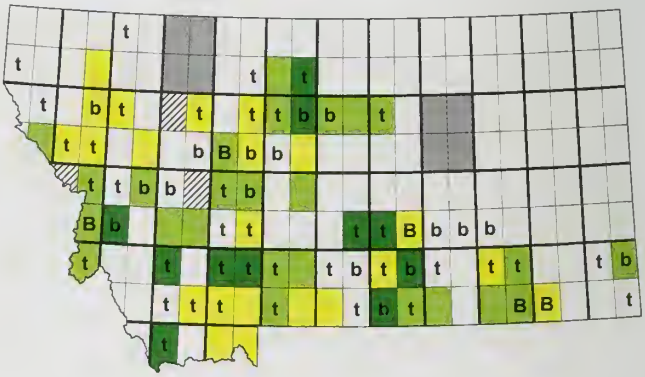
Vaux's Swift
Chaetura vauxi
2003-2011 = 149





White-throated Swift
Aeronautes saxatalis
2003-2011 = 246

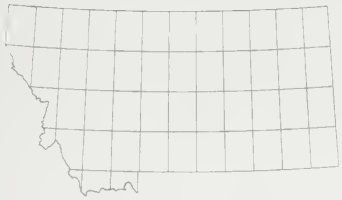


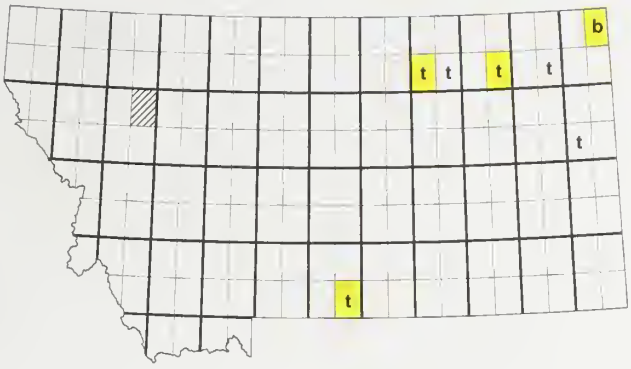


Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Archilochus colubris

2003-2011 = 18 R2

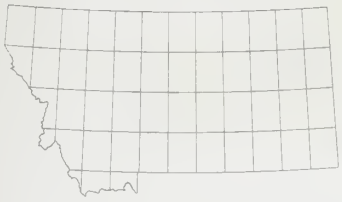


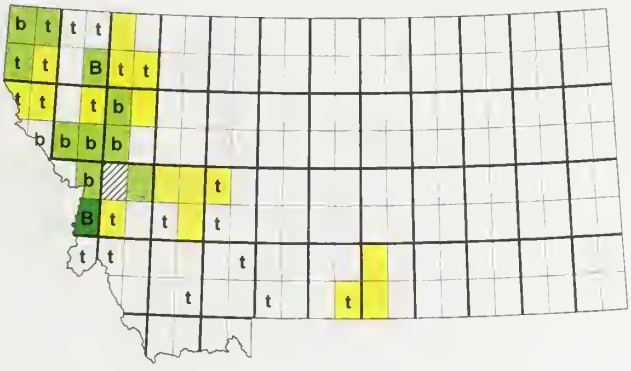


Black-chinned Hummingbird

Archilochus alexandri

2003-2011 = 160

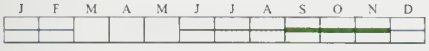


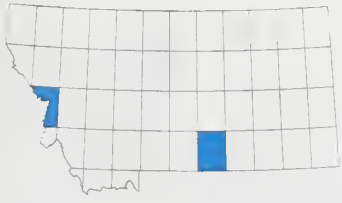


Anna's Hummingbird

Calypte anna

2003-2011 = 10 R2

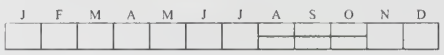


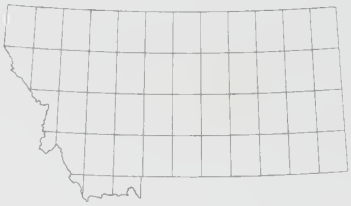


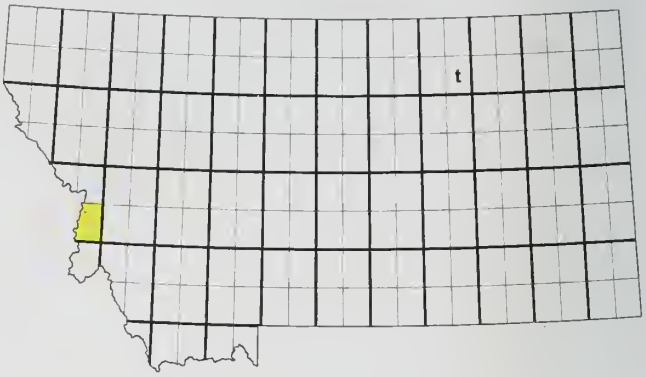
Costa's Hummingbird

Calypte costae

2003-2011 = 1 R1



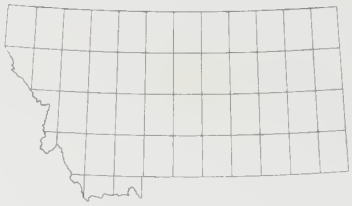


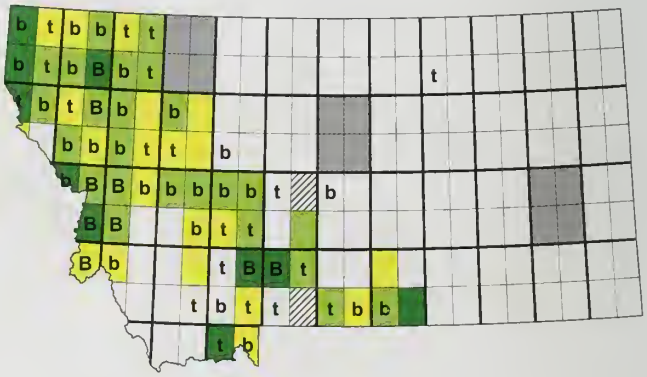


Calliope Hummingbird

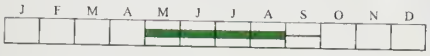
Stellula calliope

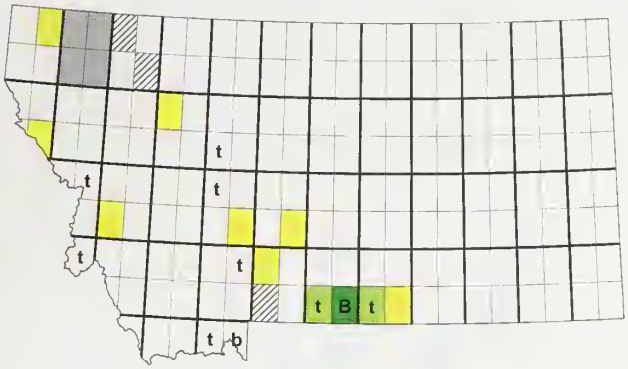
2003-2011 = 458



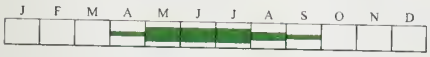


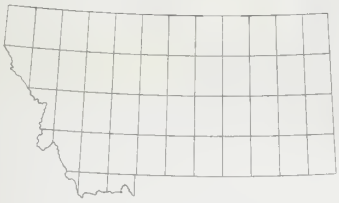
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Selasphorus platycercus
2003-2011 = 53 SI





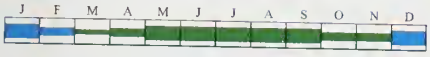
Rufous Hummingbird
Selasphorus rufus
2003-2011 = 387 SI

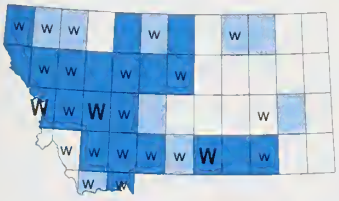


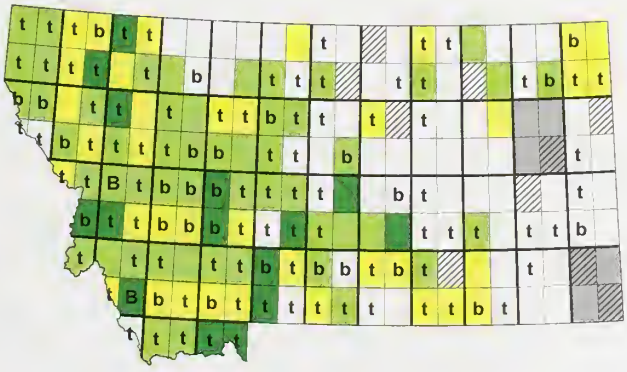


CORACIIFORMES Alcedinidae

Belted Kingfisher
Megaceryle alcyon
2003-2011 = 946



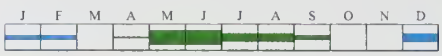


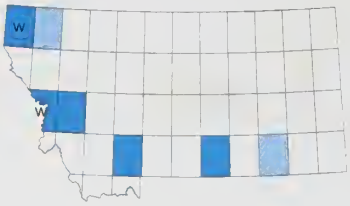


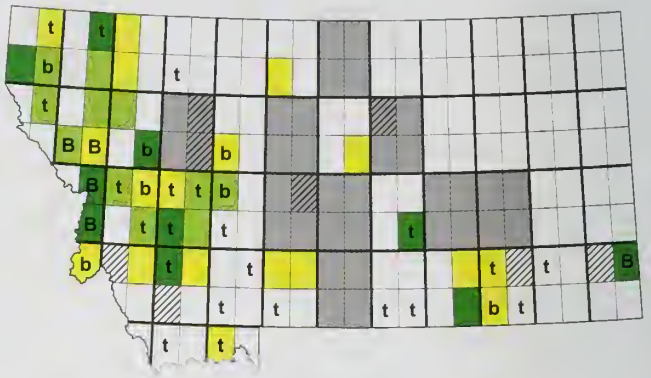
Lewis's Woodpecker

Melanerpes lewis

2003-2011 = 175 SOC



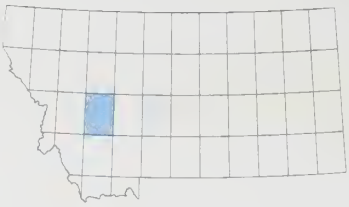


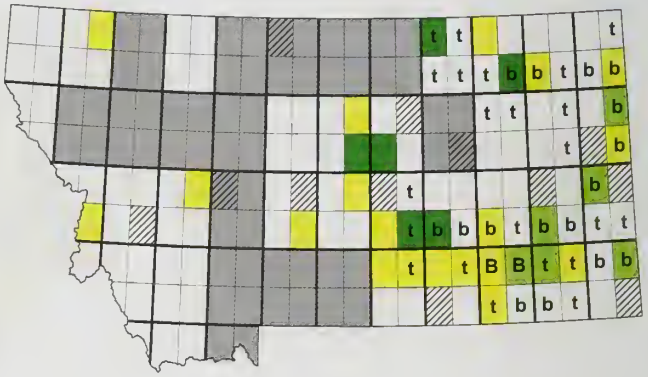


Red-headed Woodpecker

Melanerpes erythrocephalus

2003-2011 = 201 SOC

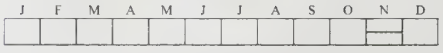


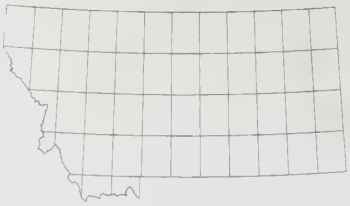


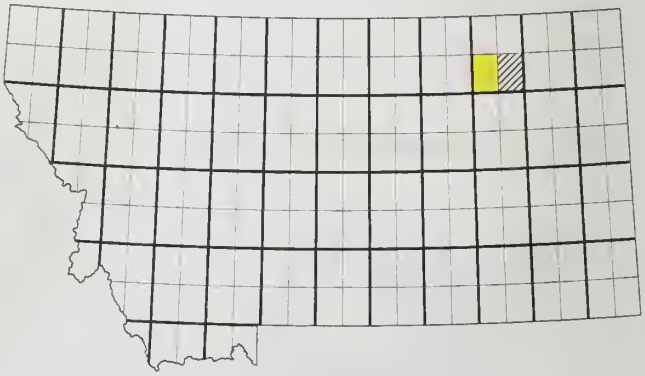
Red-bellied Woodpecker

Melanerpes carolinus

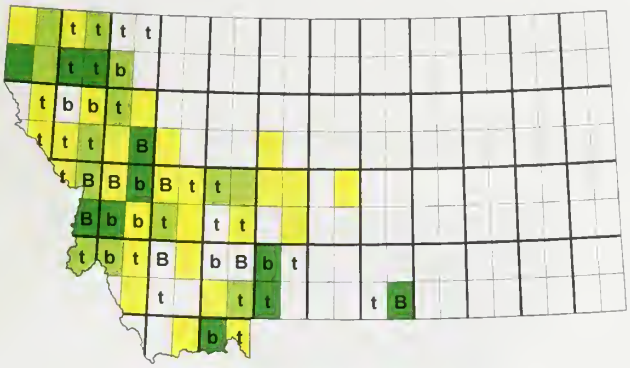
2003-2011 = 0 R1



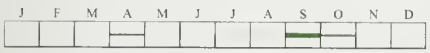




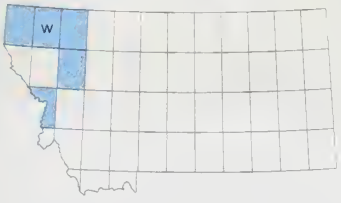
Williamson's Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus thyroideus
2003-2011 = 293

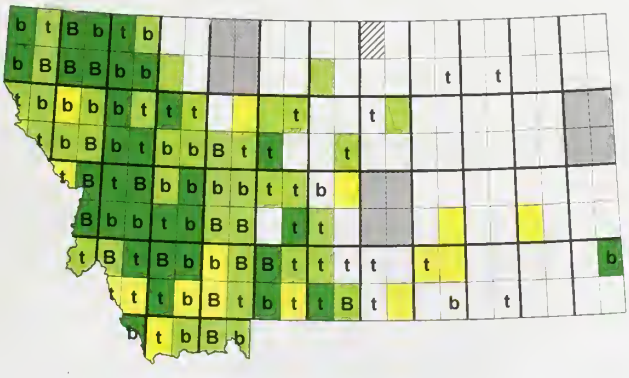


Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus varius
2003-2011 = 10 R2



Red-naped Sapsucker
Sphyrapicus nuchalis
2003-2011 = 1260

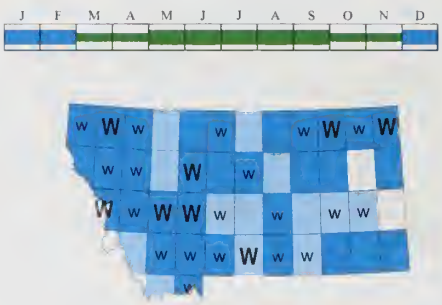




Downy Woodpecker

Picoides pubescens

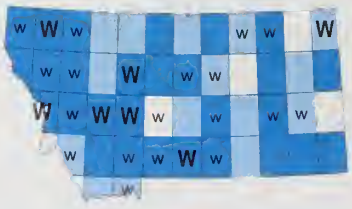
2003-2011 = 1193



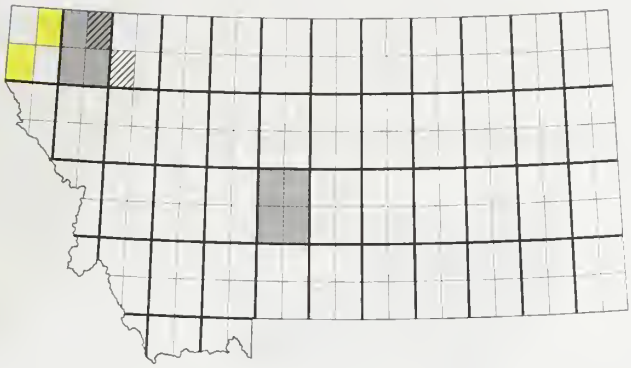
Hairy Woodpecker

Picoides villosus

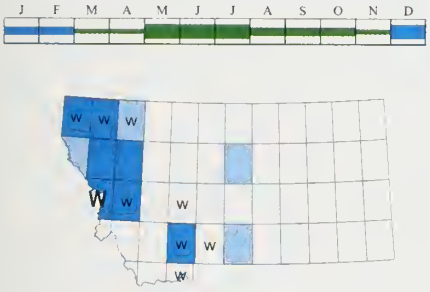
2003-2011 = 1854

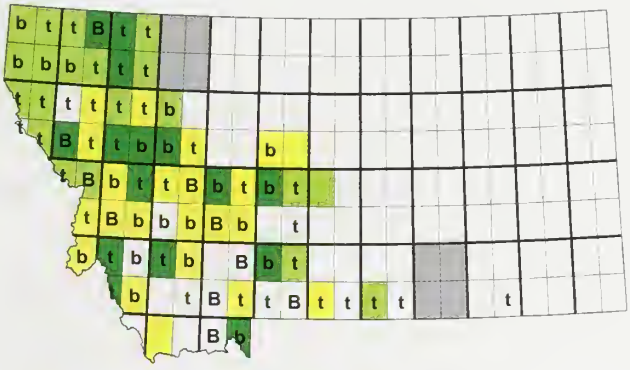


White-headed Woodpecker
Picoides albolarvatus
2003-2011 = 0 R1

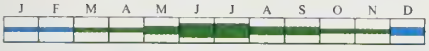


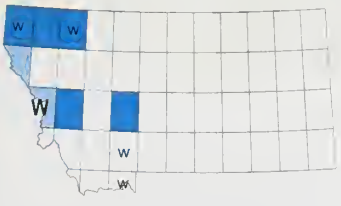
American Three-toed Woodpecker
Picoides dorsalis
2003-2011 = 449

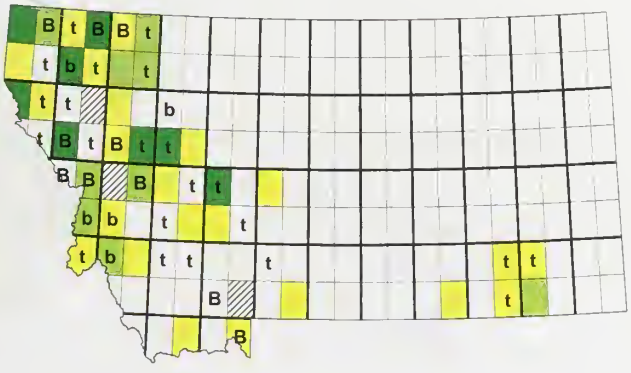




Black-backed Woodpecker
Picoides arcticus
2003-2011 = 155 SOC



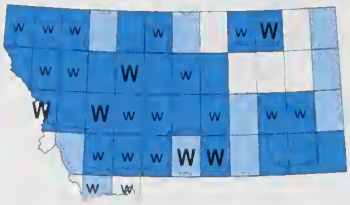


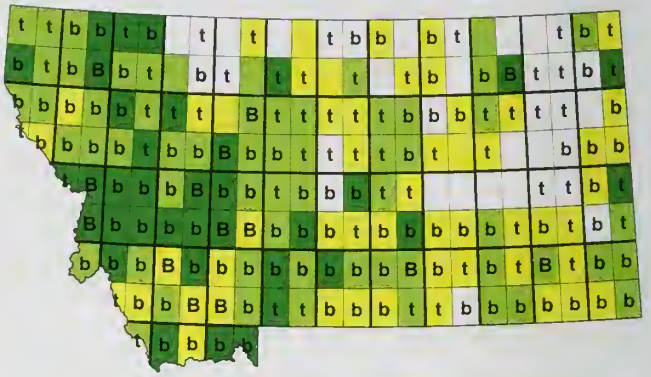


Northern Flicker

Colaptes auratus

2003-2011 = 4023

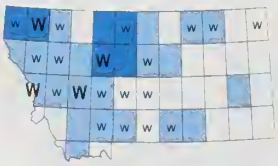


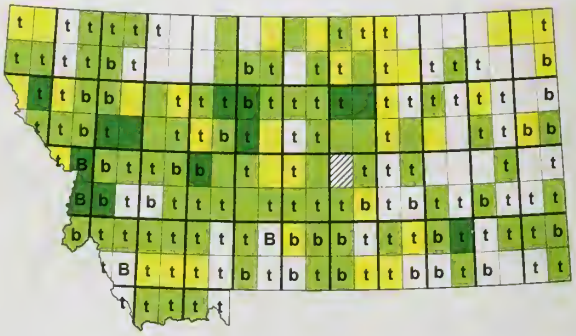


Red-shafted Flicker

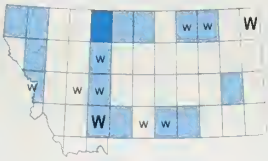
Colaptes auratus cafer

2003-2011 = 1395

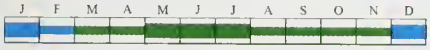


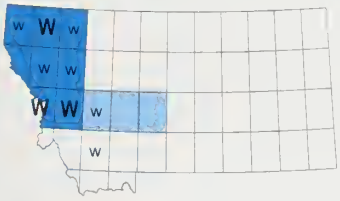


Yellow-shafted Flicker
Colaptes auratus auratus
2003-2011 = 84



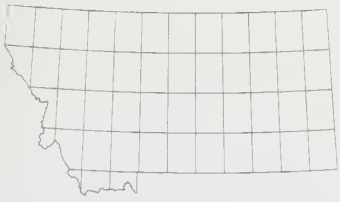
Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus
2003-2011 = 855 SOC





PASSERIFORMES Tyrannidae

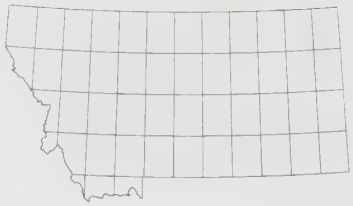
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Contopus cooperi
2003-2011 = 1044

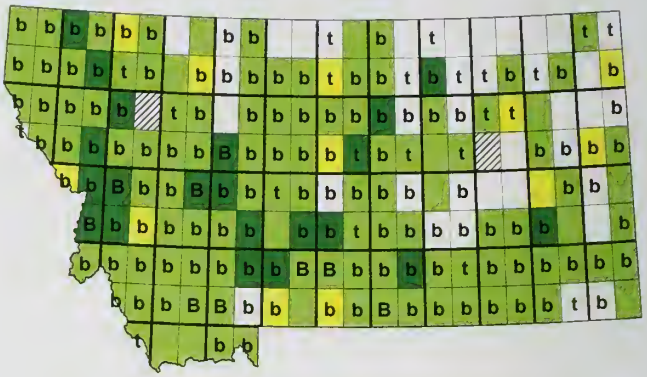


Western Wood-Pewee

Contopus sordidulus

2003-2011 = 2756

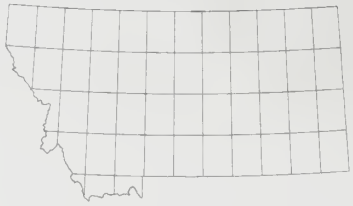


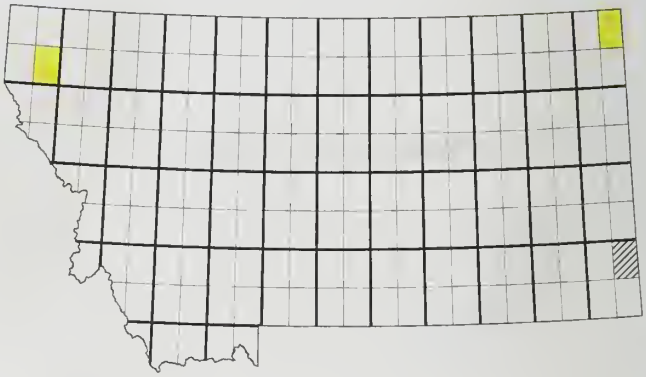


Eastern Wood-Pewee

Contopus virens

2003-2011 = 0 R1

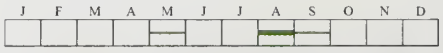


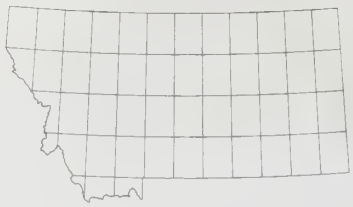


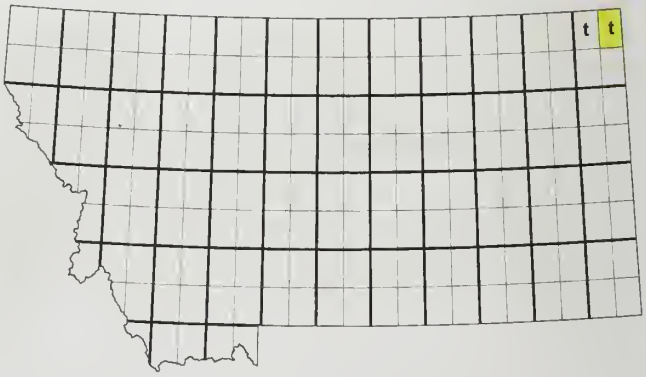
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Empidonax flaviventris

2003-2011 = 19 R2



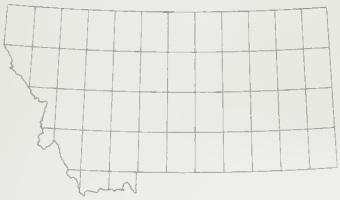


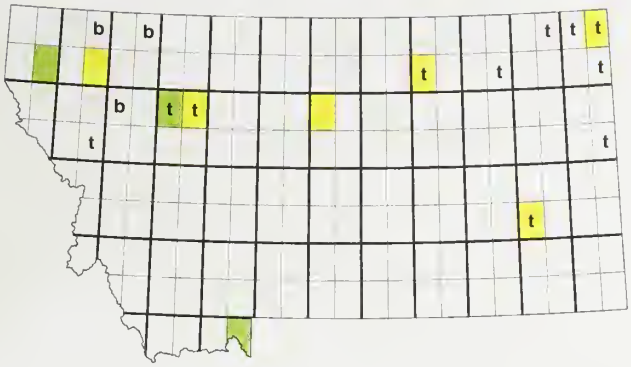


Alder Flycatcher

Empidonax alnorum

2003-2011 = 23 SOC

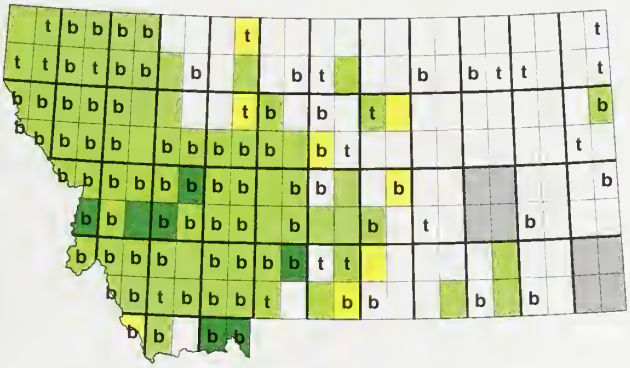




Willow Flycatcher

Empidonax traillii

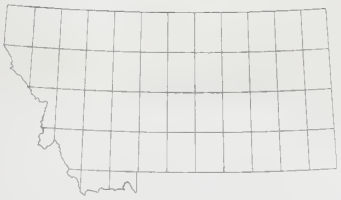
2003-2011 = 1251

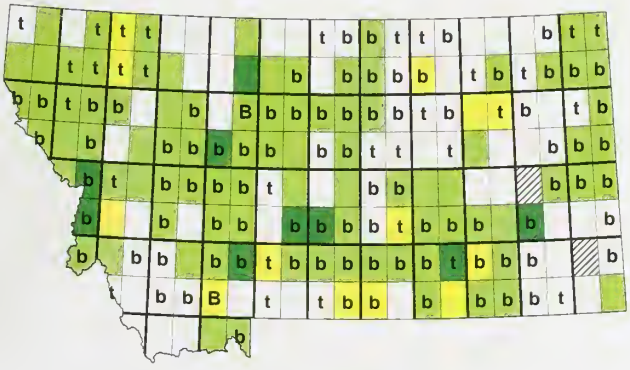


Least Flycatcher

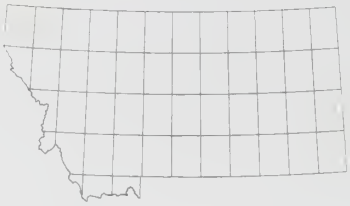
Empidonax minimus

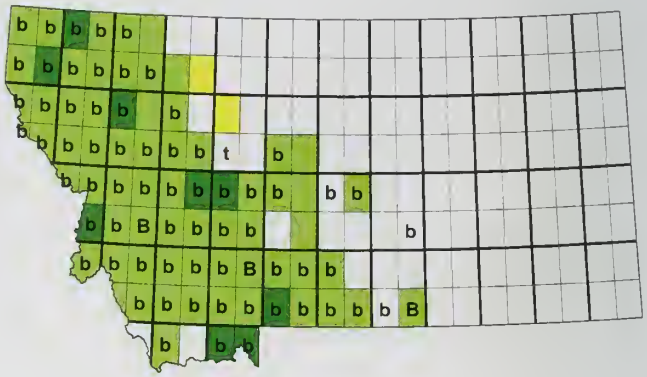
2003-2011 = 1314



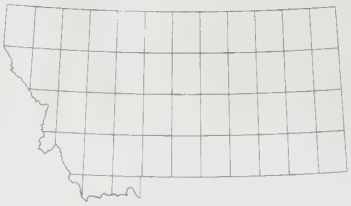


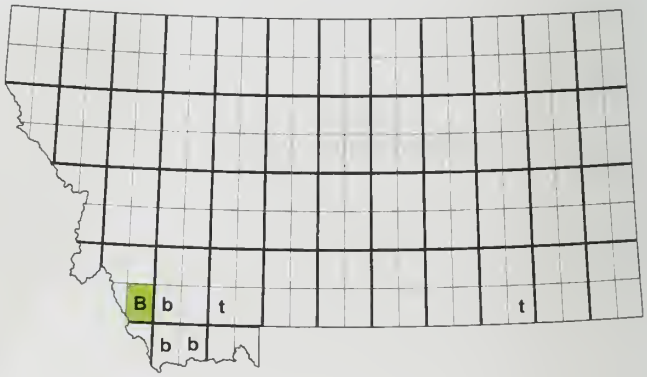
Hammond's Flycatcher
Empidonax hammondii
2003-2011 = 1762



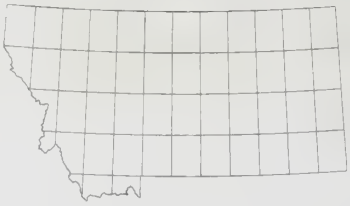


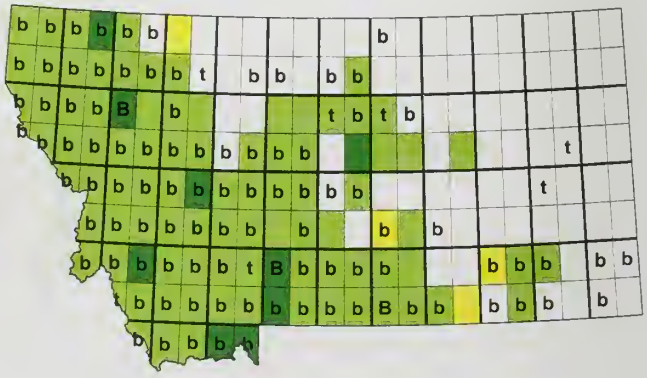
Gray Flycatcher
Empidonax wrightii
2003-2011 = 38 R2





Dusky Flycatcher
Empidonax oberholseri
2003-2011 = 3275

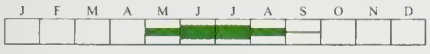


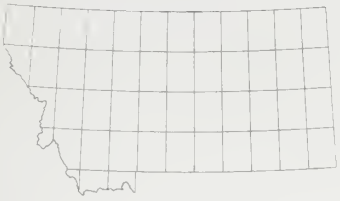


Cordilleran Flycatcher

Empidonax occidentalis

2003-2011 = 349





Eastern Phoebe

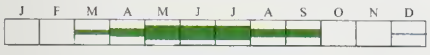
Sayornis phoebe

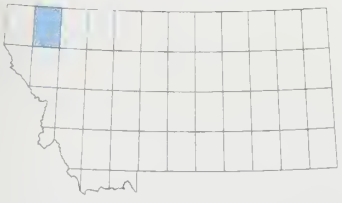
2003-2011 = 7 R1

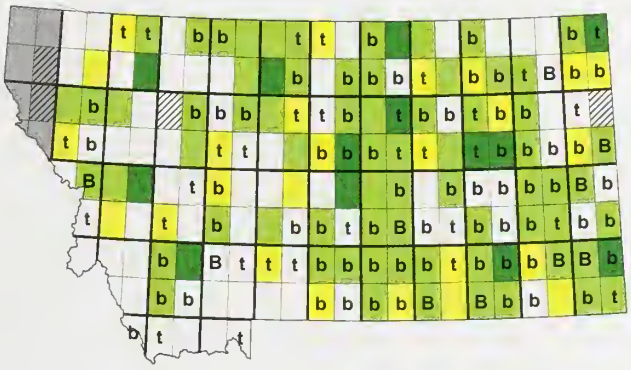
Say's Phoebe

Sayornis saya

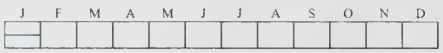
2003-2011 = 514

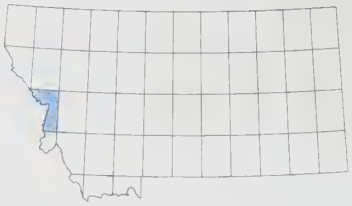


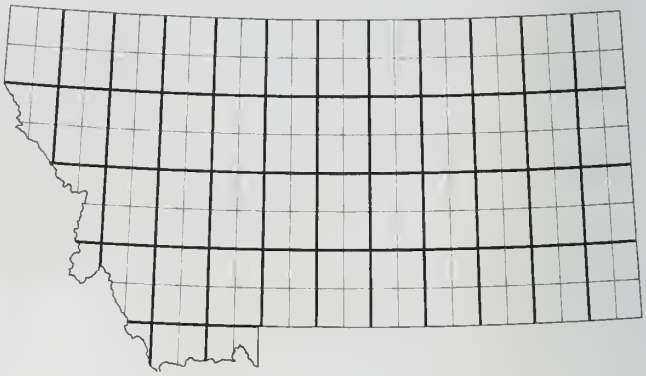




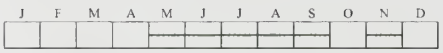
Vermilion Flycatcher
Pyrocephalus rubinus
2003-2011 = 0 R1

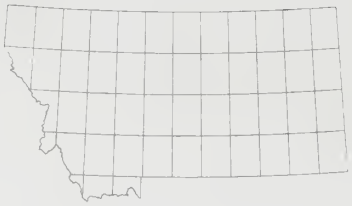


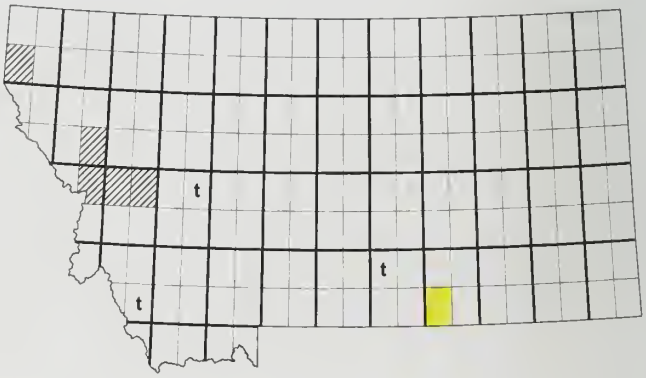




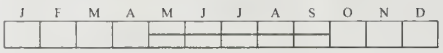
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Myiarchus cinerascens
2003-2011 = 3 R1

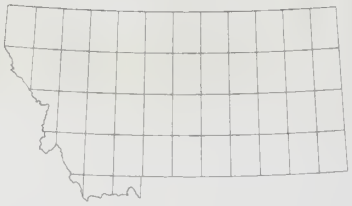






Great Crested Flycatcher
Myiarchus crinitus
2003-2011 = 6 R1

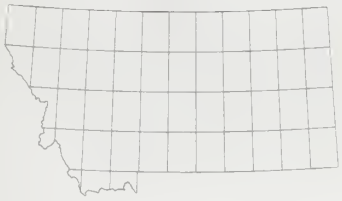


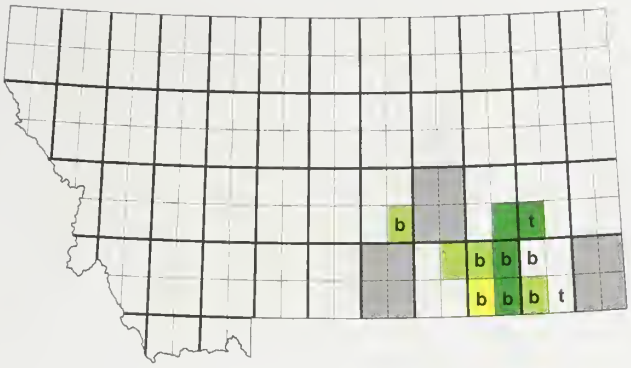


Cassin's Kingbird

Tyrannus vociferans

2003-2011 = 115 SI

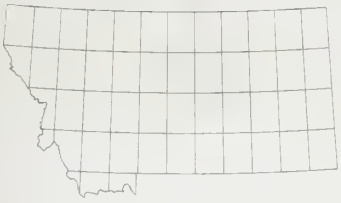




Western Kingbird

Tyrannus verticalis

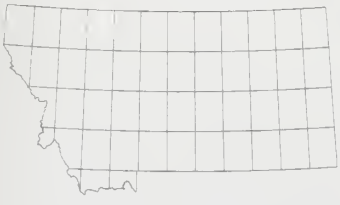
2003-2011 = 1813

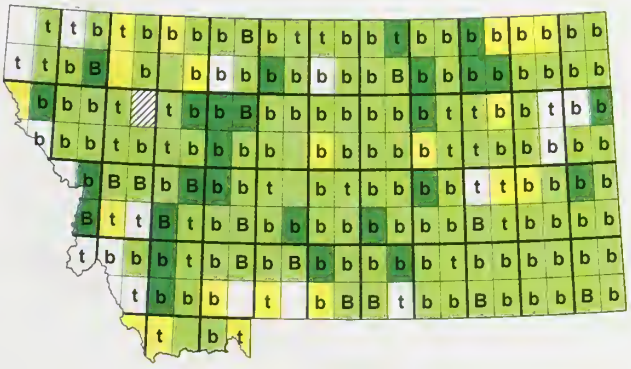


Eastern Kingbird

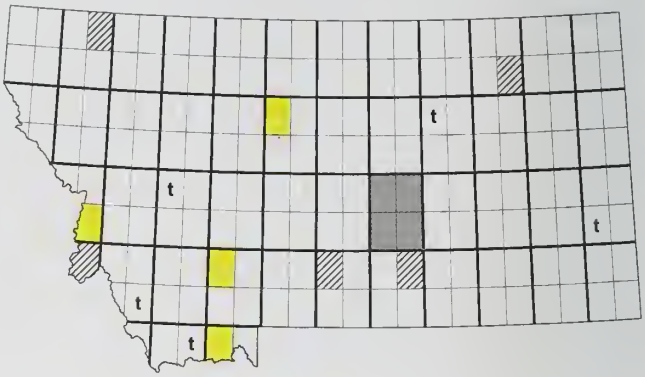
Tyrannus tyrannus

2003-2011 = 3343



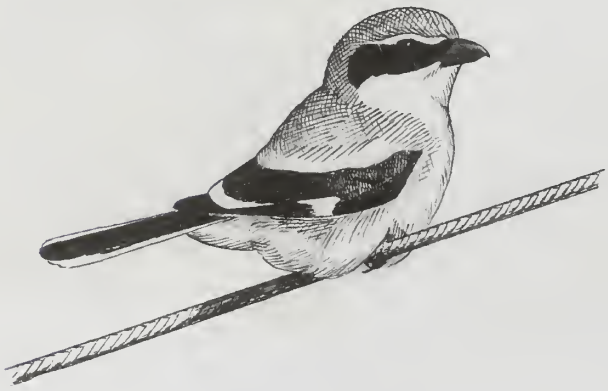


Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Tyrannus forficatus
2003-2011 = 5 R1



Laniidae

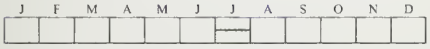
Loggerhead Shrike
Lanius ludovicianus
2003-2011 = 508 SOC



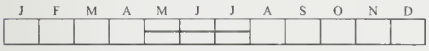
Northern Shrike
Lanius excubitor
2003-2011 = 360

Vireonidae

White-eyed Vireo
Vireo griseus
2003-2011 = 0 R1



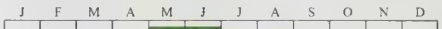
Yellow-throated Vireo
Vireo flavifrons
2003-2011 = 4 R1

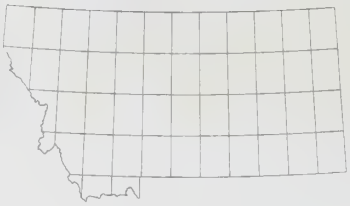


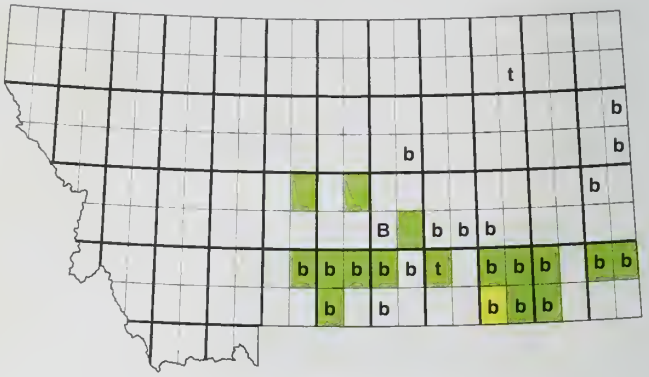
Plumbeous Vireo

Vireo plumbeus

2003-2011 = 312 SI



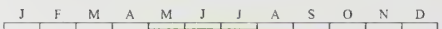


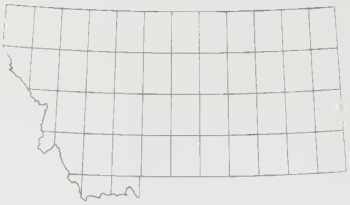


Cassin's Vireo

Vireo cassinii

2003-2011 = 1666

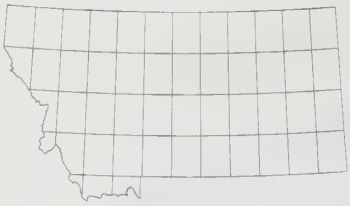


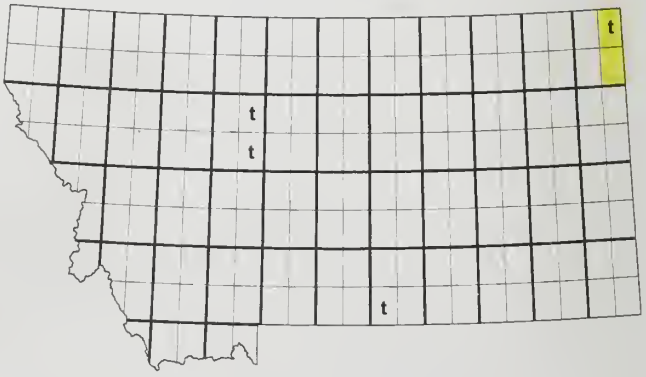


Blue-headed Vireo

Vireo solitarius

2003-2011 = 13 R2

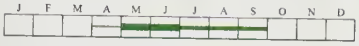


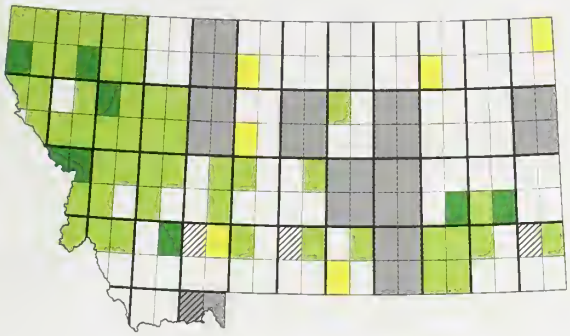


Solitary Vireo

Vireo solitarius

2003-2011 = 0

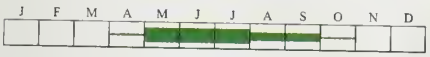


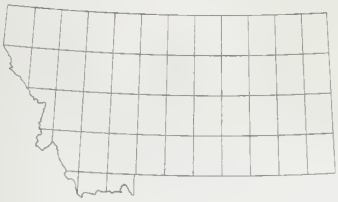


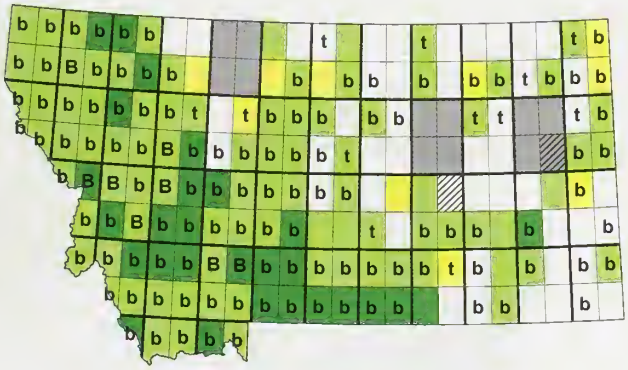
Warbling Vireo

Vireo gilvus

2003-2011 = 4918



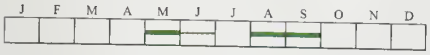


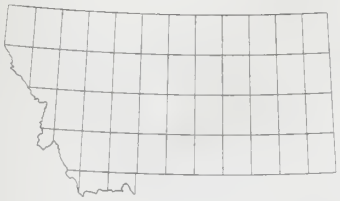


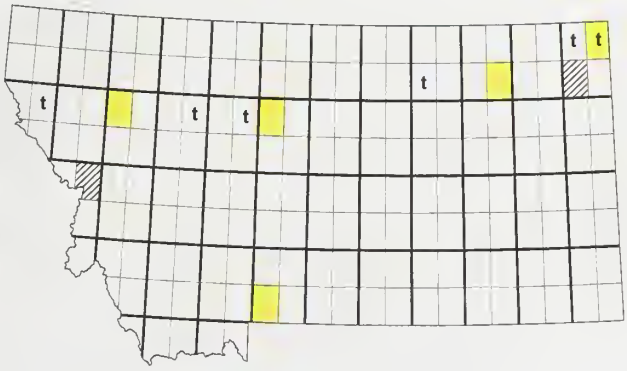
Philadelphia Vireo

Vireo philadelphicus

2003-2011 = 13 R2



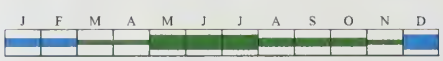


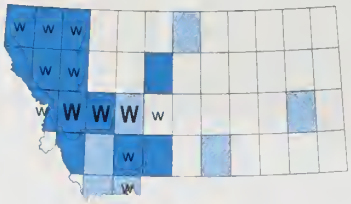


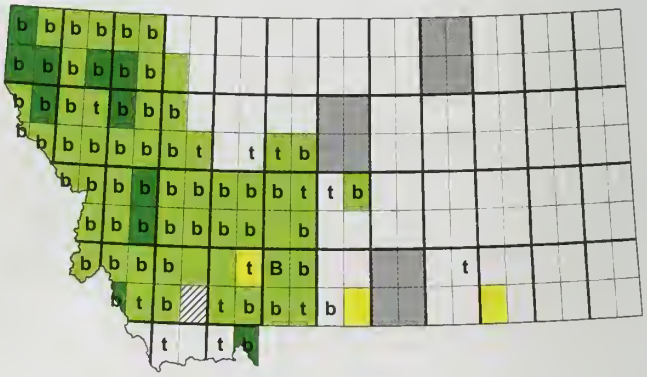
Red-eyed Vireo
Vireo olivaceus
2003-2011 = 258

Corvidae

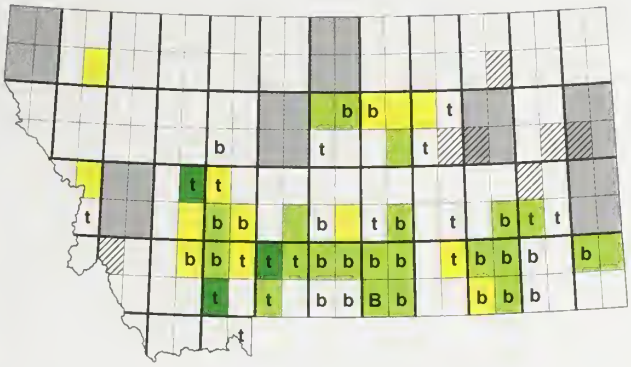
Gray Jay
Perisoreus canadensis
2003-2011 = 1033



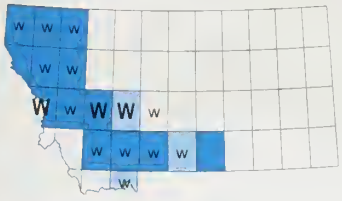


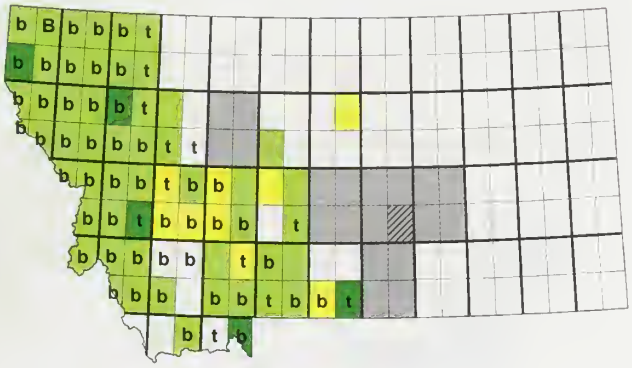


Pinyon Jay
Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus
2003-2011 = 253 SOC

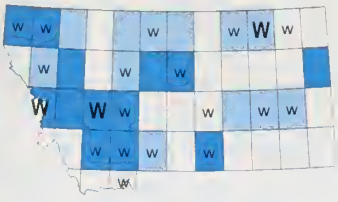


Steller's Jay
Cyanocitta stelleri
2003-2011 = 690





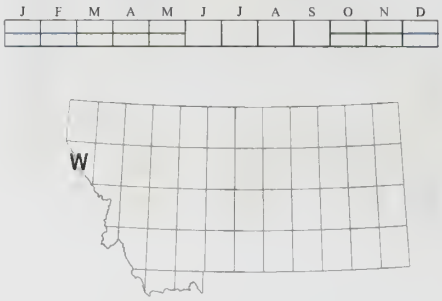
Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
2003-2011 = 248

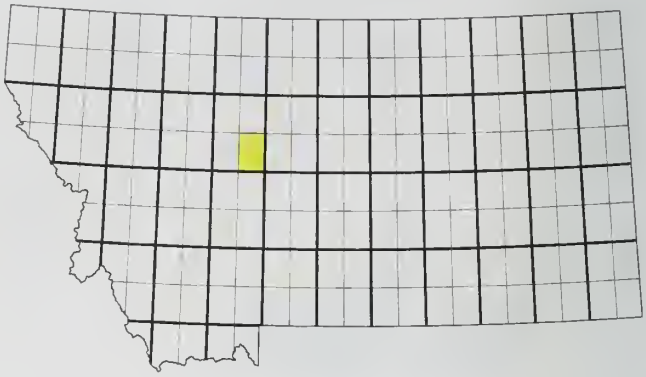


Western Scrub-Jay

Aphelocoma californica

2003-2011 = 1 R1

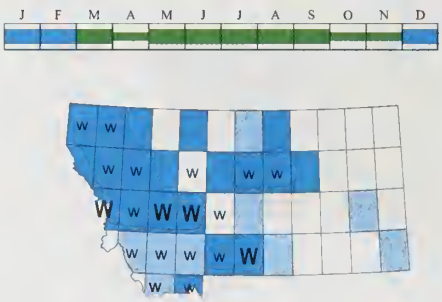


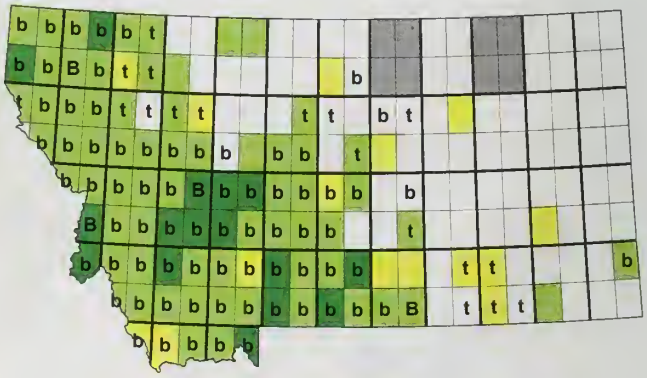


Clark's Nutcracker

Nucifraga columbiana

2003-2011 = 2107 SOC

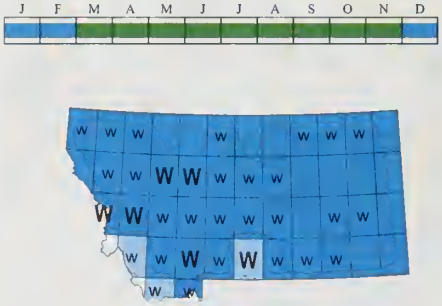


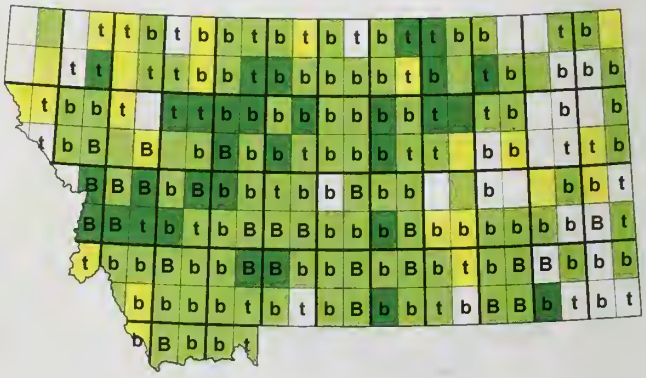


Black-billed Magpie

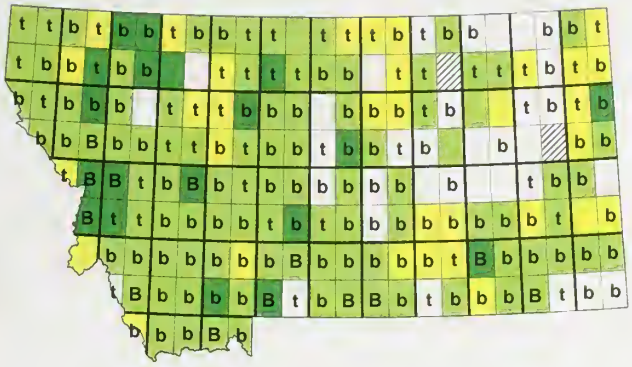
Pica hudsonia

2003-2011 = 4015

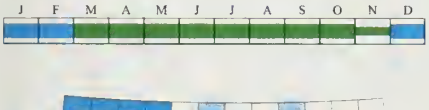


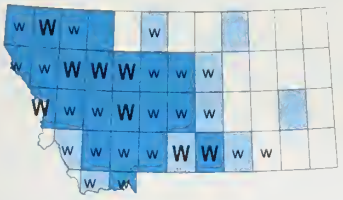


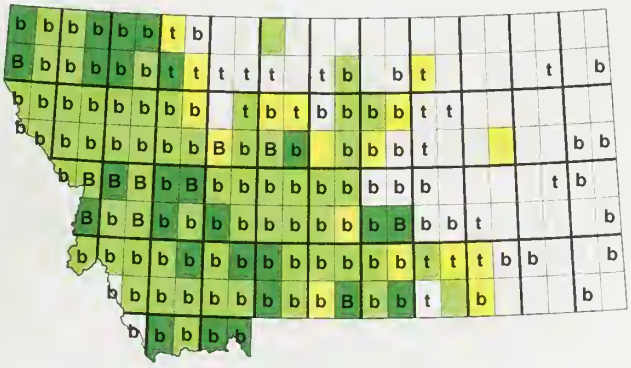
American Crow
Corvus brachyrhynchos
2003-2011 = 2924



Common Raven
Corvus corax
2003-2011 = 4479

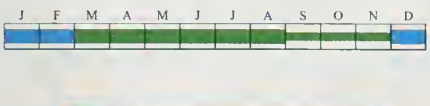


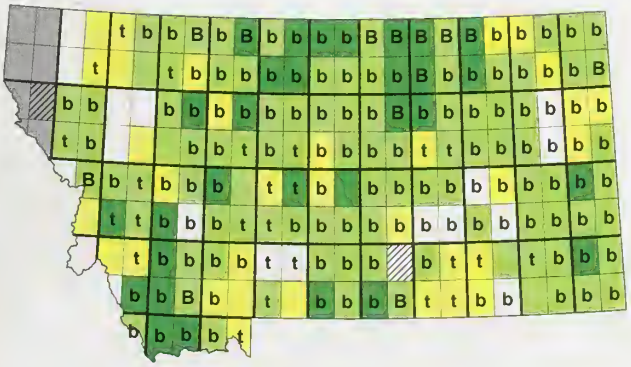




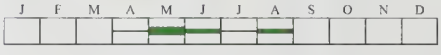
Alaudidae

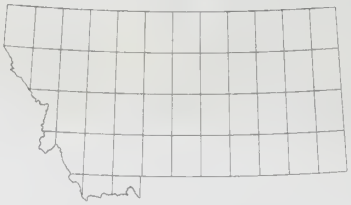
Horned Lark
Eremophila alpestris
2003-2011 = 9017

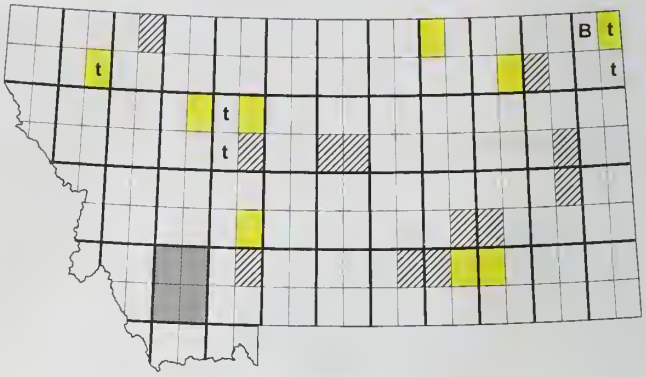




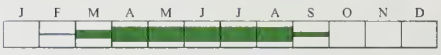
Purple Martin
Progne subis
2003-2011 = 15

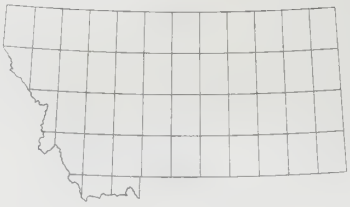




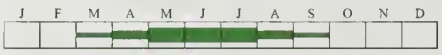


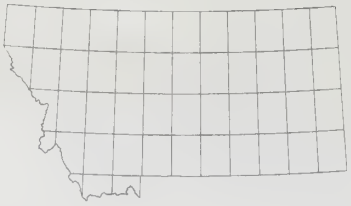
Tree Swallow
Tachycineta bicolor
2003-2011 = 2646

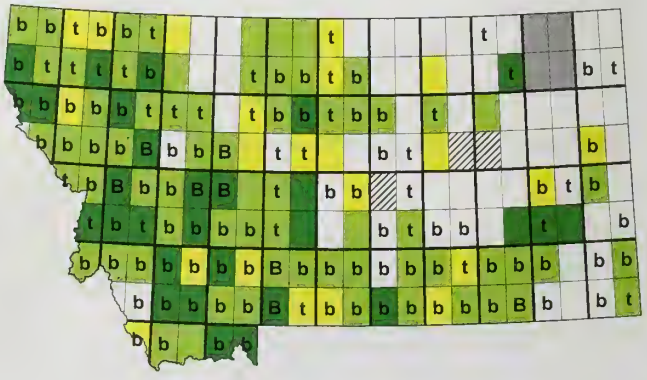




Violet-green Swallow
Tachycineta thalassina
2003-2011 = 899



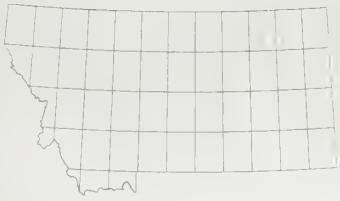


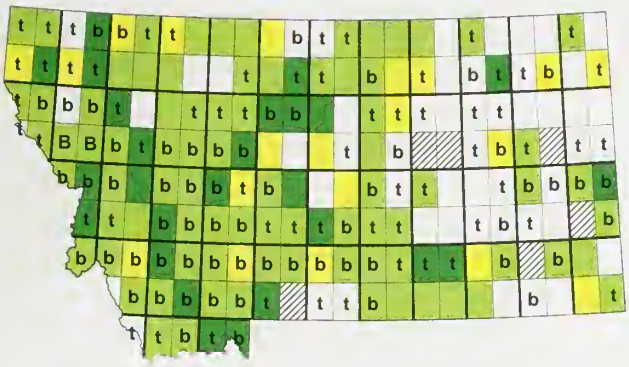


Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx serripennis

2003-2011 = 688

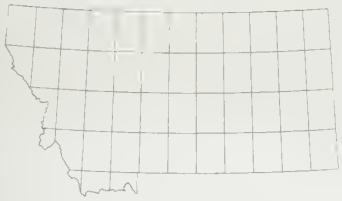




Bank Swallow

Riparia riparia

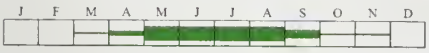
2003-2011 = 498

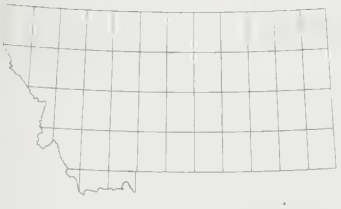


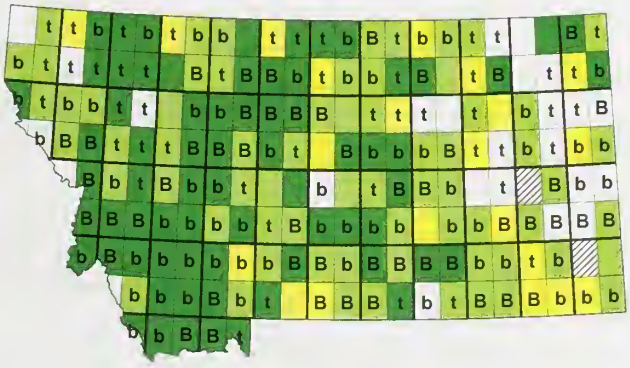
Cliff Swallow

Petrochelidon pyrrhonota

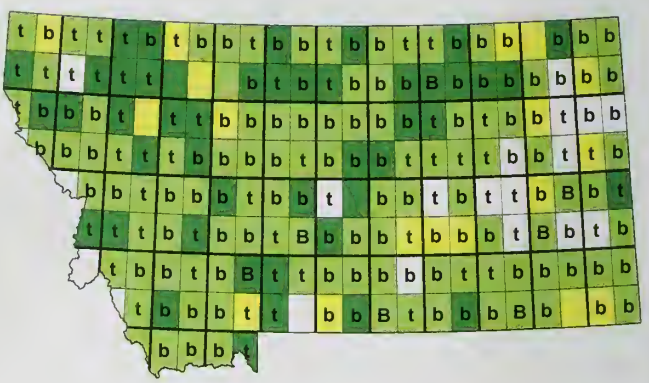
2003-2011 = 1518





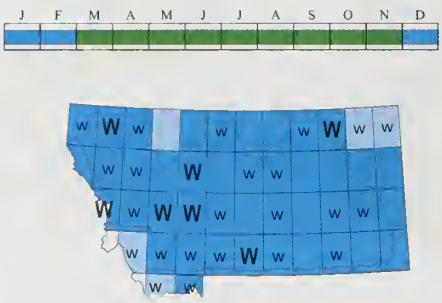


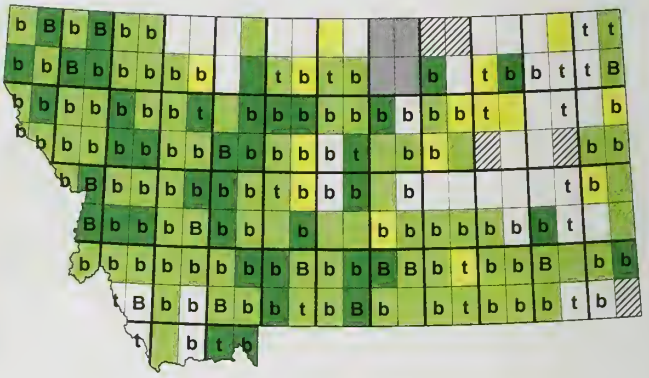
Barn Swallow
Hirundo rustica
2003-2011 = 1860

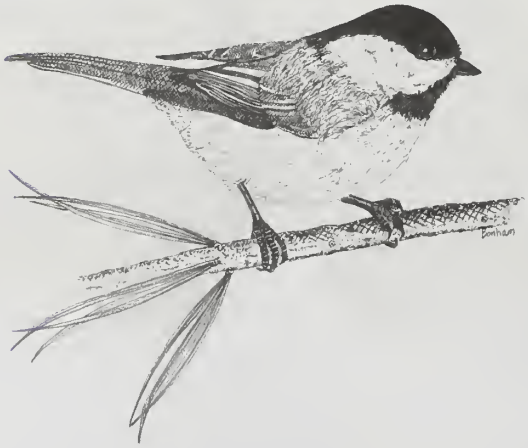


Paridae

Black-capped Chickadee
Poecile atricapillus
2003-2011 = 4061



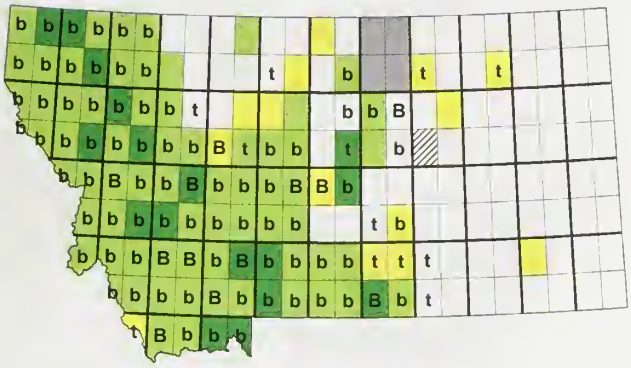




Mountain Chickadee

Poecile gambeli

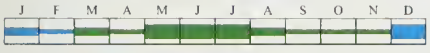
2003-2011 = 5235

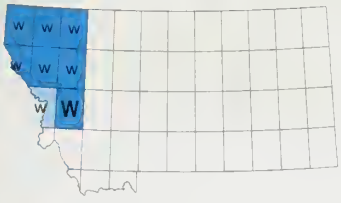


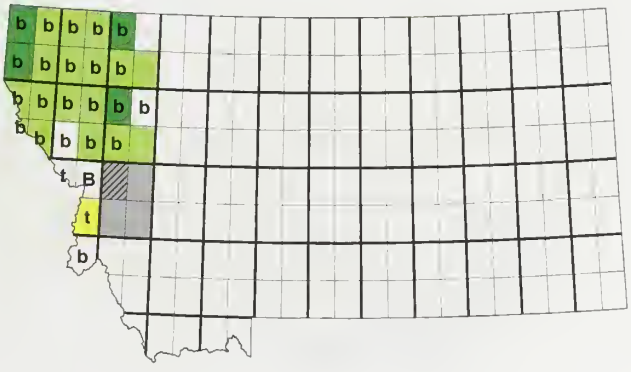
Chestnut-backed Chickadee

Poecile rufescens

2003-2011 = 328



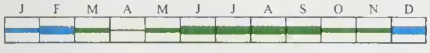


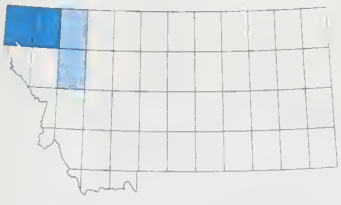


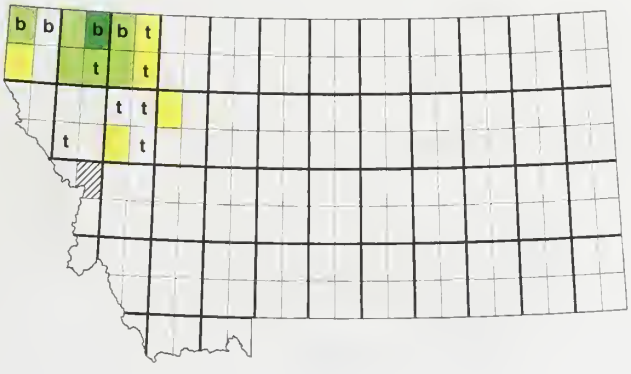
Boreal Chickadee

Poecile hudsonicus

2003-2011 = 35 SOC



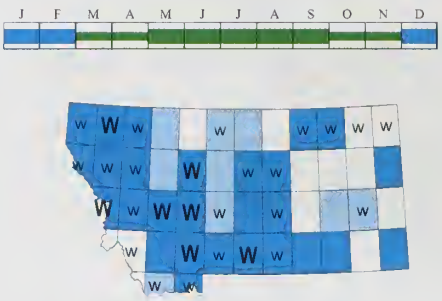


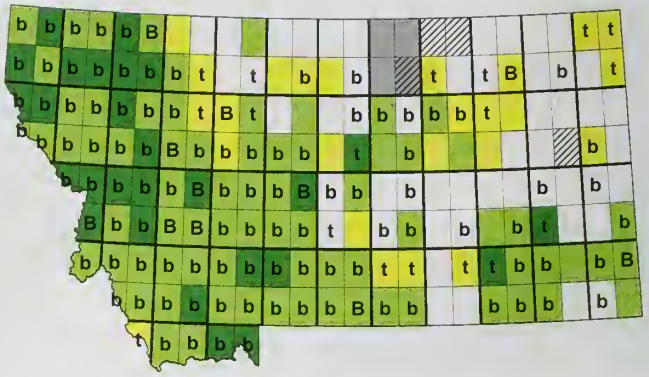


Red-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta canadensis

2003-2011 = 7281

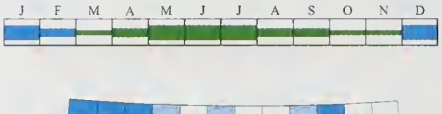


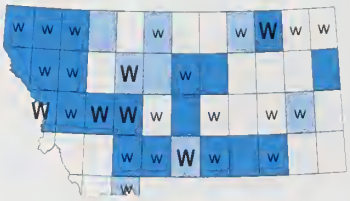


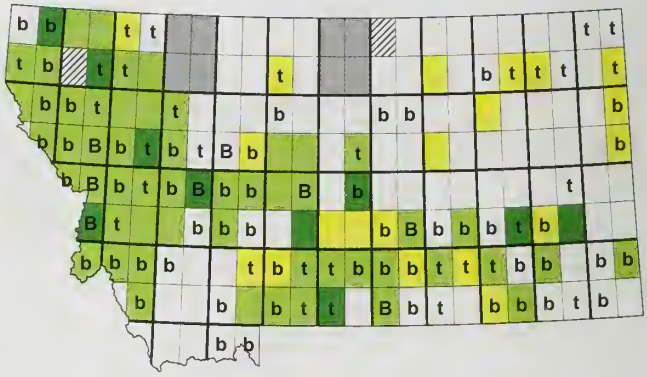
White-breasted Nuthatch

Sitta carolinensis

2003-2011 = 722



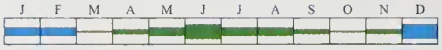


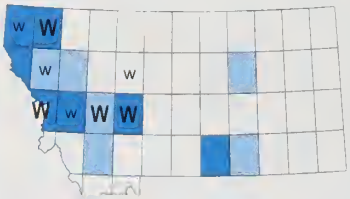


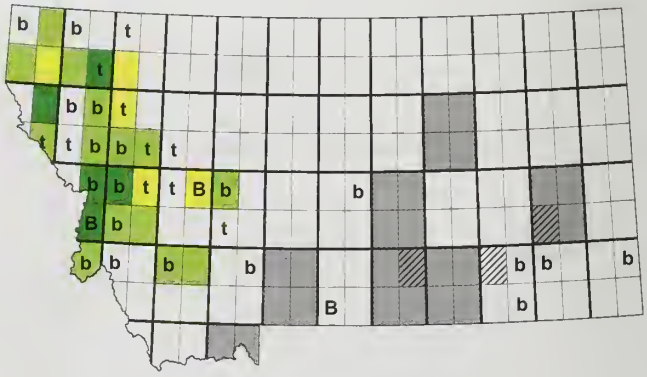
Pygmy Nuthatch

Sitta pygmaea

2003-2011 = 242

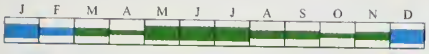


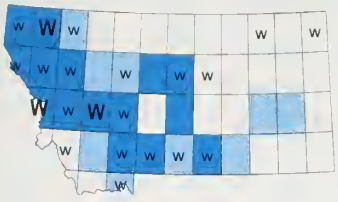


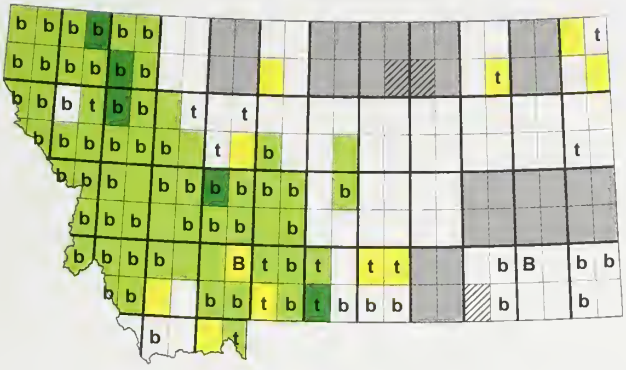


Certhiidae

Brown Creeper
Certhia americana
2003-2011 = 790 SOC

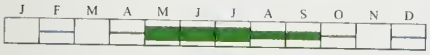


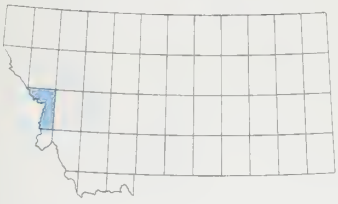




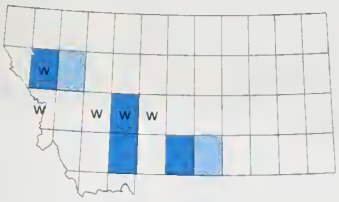
Troglodytidae

Rock Wren
Salpinctes obsoletus
2003-2011 = 1703

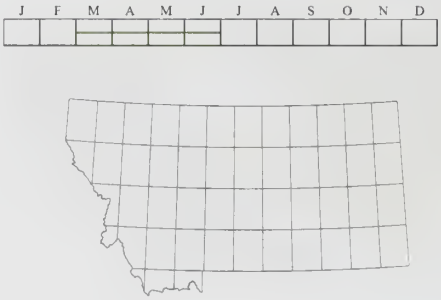


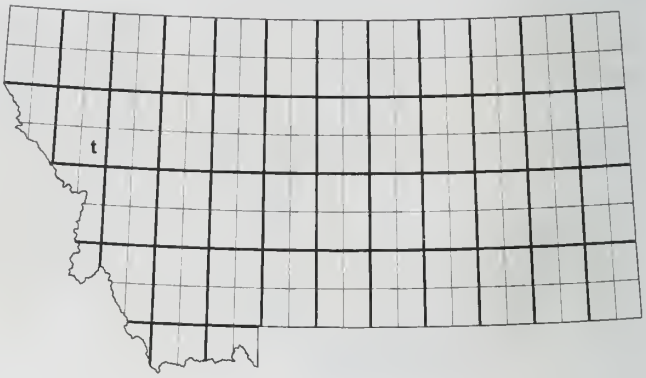


Canyon Wren
Catherpes mexicanus
2003-2011 = 101

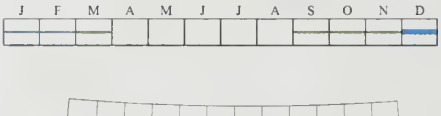


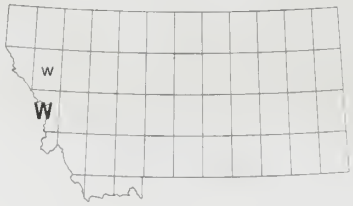
Carolina Wren
Thryothorus ludovicianus
2003-2011 = 1 R1

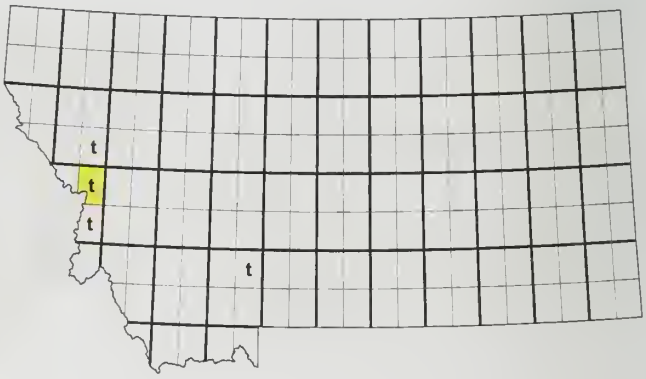




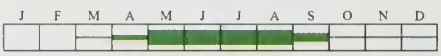
Bewick's Wren
Thryomanes bewickii
2003-2011 = 9 R1

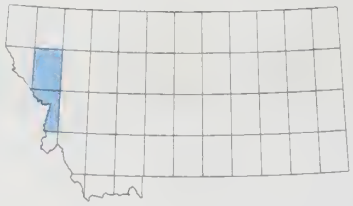


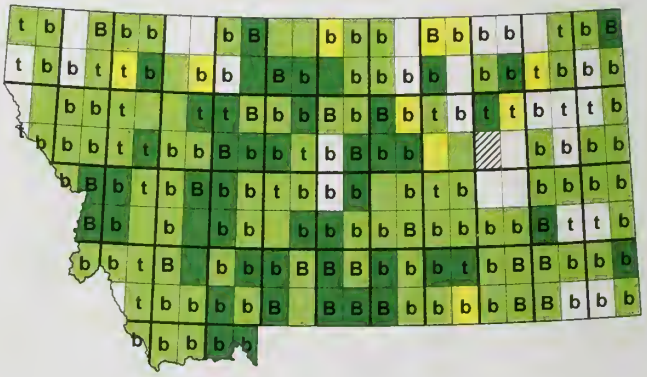




House Wren
Troglodytes aedon
2003-2011 = 4255



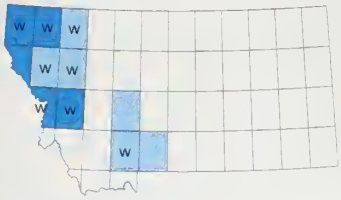


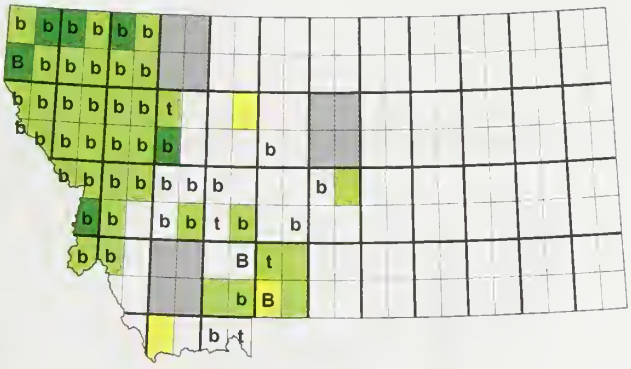


Pacific Wren

Troglodytes pacificus

2003-2011 = 748 SOC

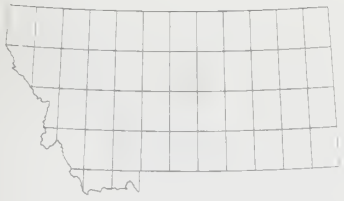


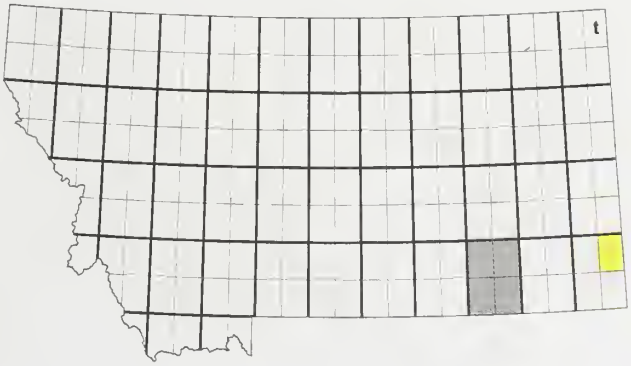


Winter Wren

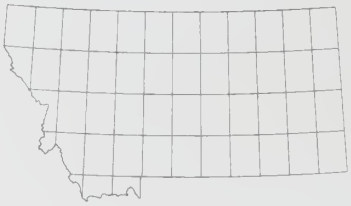
Troglodytes troglodytes

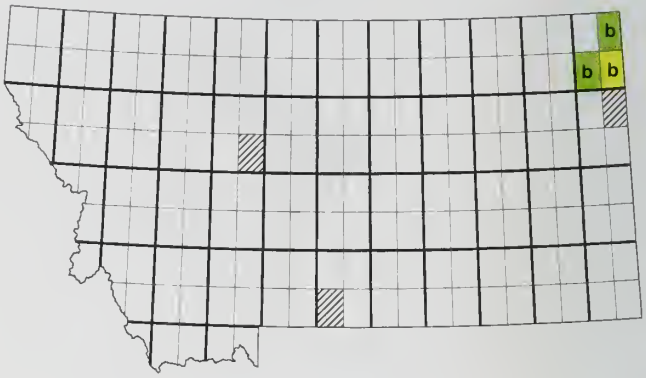
2003-2011 = 1 R1



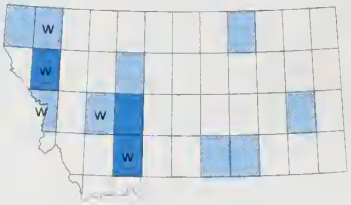


Sedge Wren
Cistothorus platensis
2003-2011 = 12 SOC R2



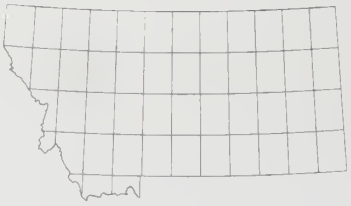


Marsh Wren
Cistothorus palustris
2003-2011 = 686



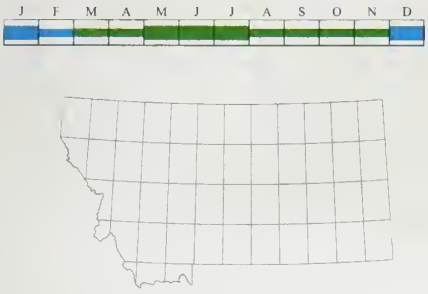
Polioptilidae

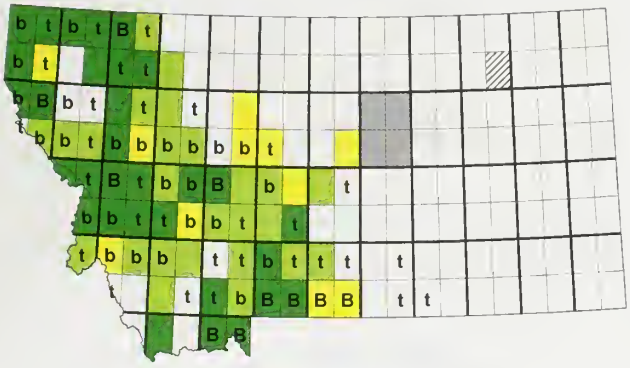
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Polioptila caerulea
2003-2011 = 20 SOC R2



Cinclidae

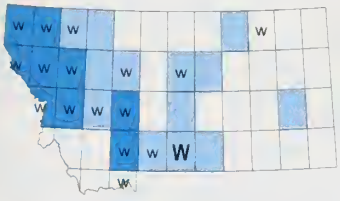
American Dipper
Cinclus mexicanus
2003-2011 = 464

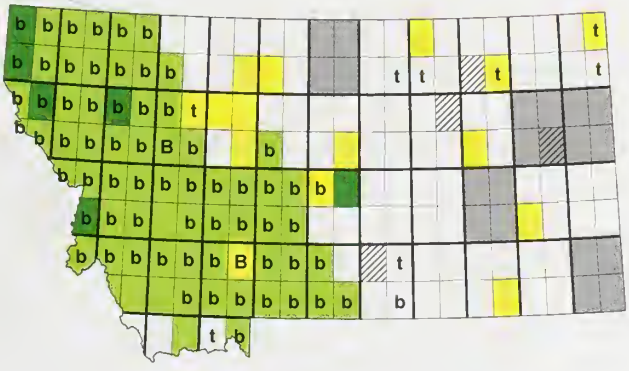




Regulidae

Golden-crowned Kinglet
Regulus satrapa
2003-2011 = 1494

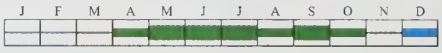


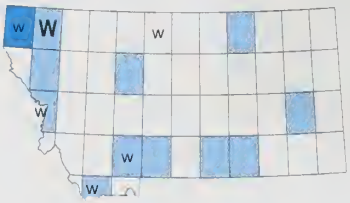


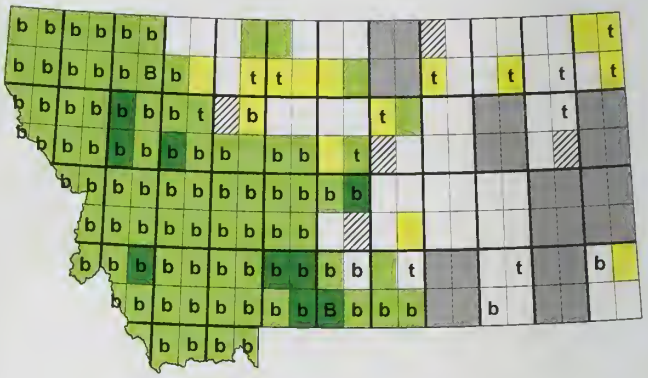
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Regulus calendula

2003-2011 = 6419







Turdidae

Eastern Bluebird

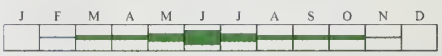
Sialia sialis

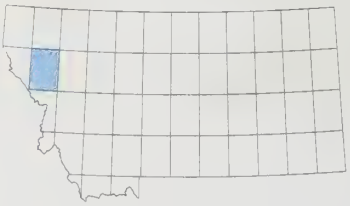
2003-2011 = 58 SI

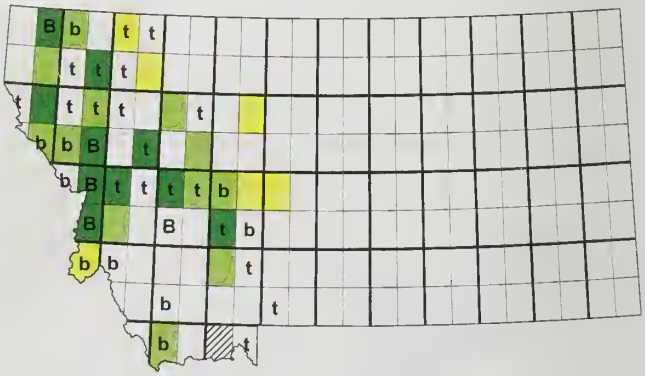
Western Bluebird

Sialia mexicana

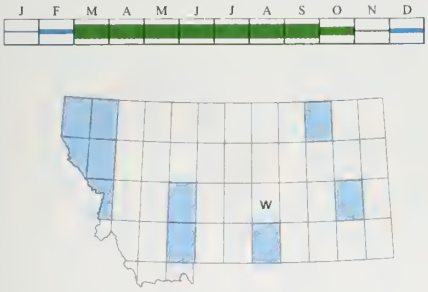
2003-2011 = 128

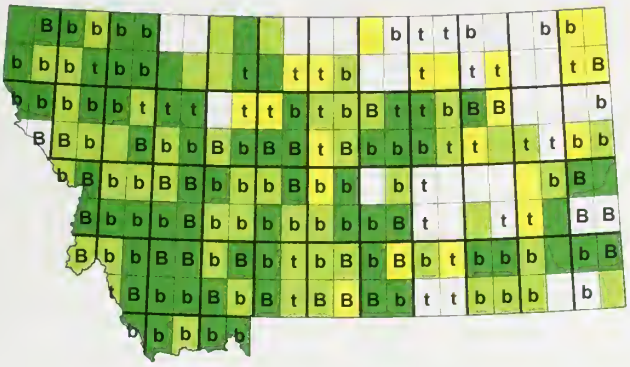




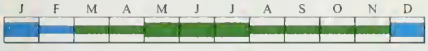


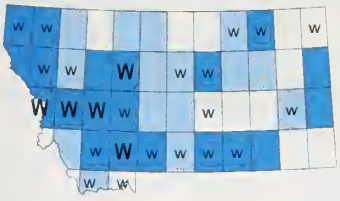
Mountain Bluebird
Sialia currucoides
2003-2011 = 2503

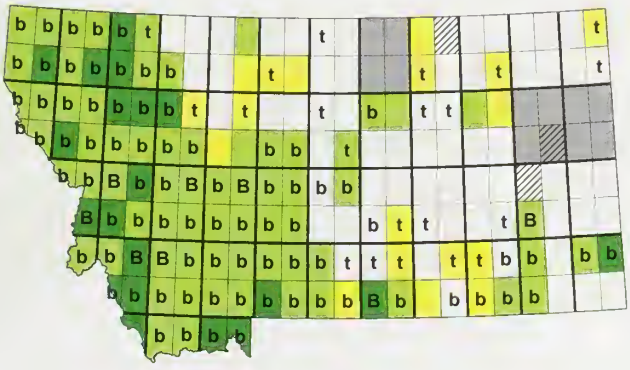




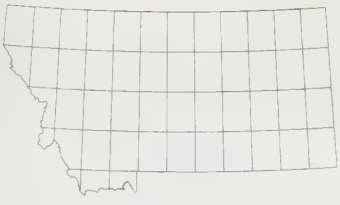
Townsend's Solitaire
Myadestes townsendi
2003-2011 = 2807

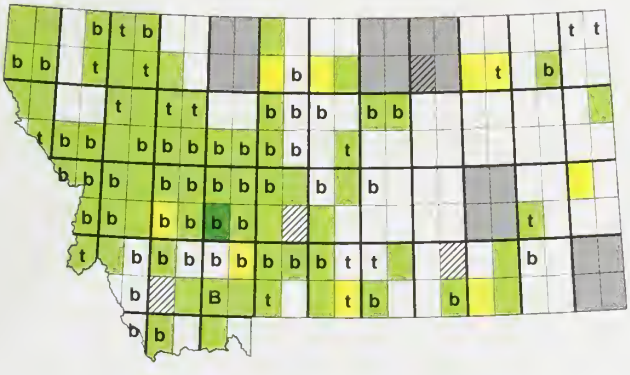






Veery
Catharus fuscescens
2003-2011 = 409 SOC

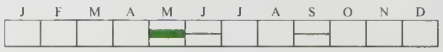


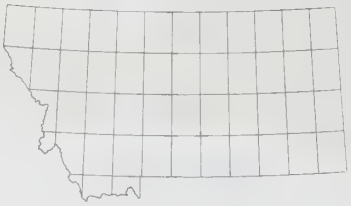


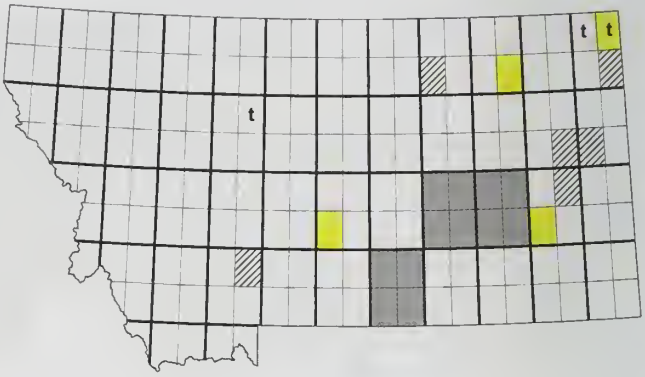
Gray-cheeked Thrush

Catharus minimus

2003-2011 = 6 R2



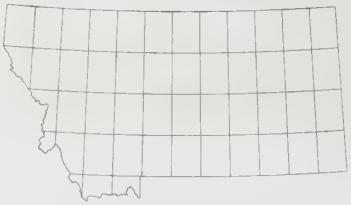


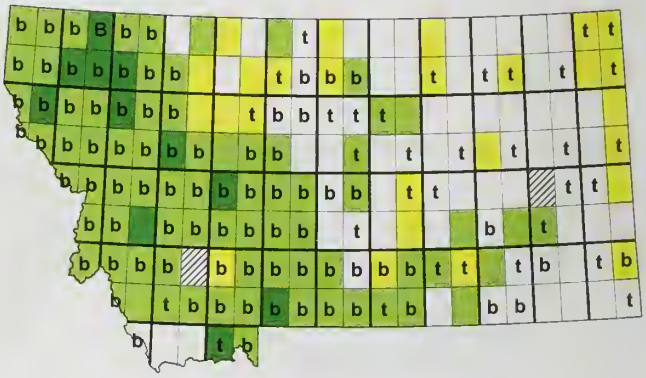


Swainson's Thrush

Catharus ustulatus

2003-2011 = 4787

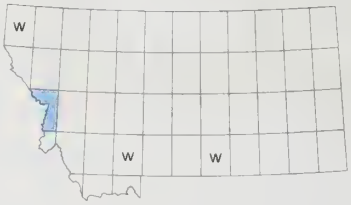




Hermit Thrush

Catharus guttatus

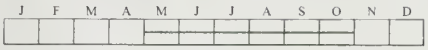
2003-2011 = 2206

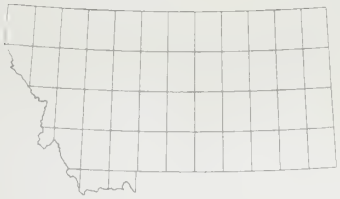


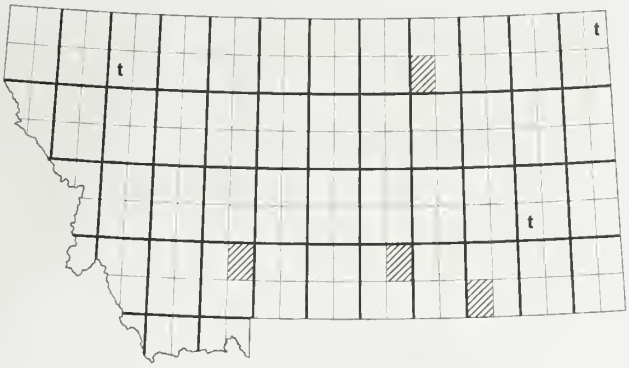
Wood Thrush

Hylocichla mustelina

2003-2011 = 4 R1



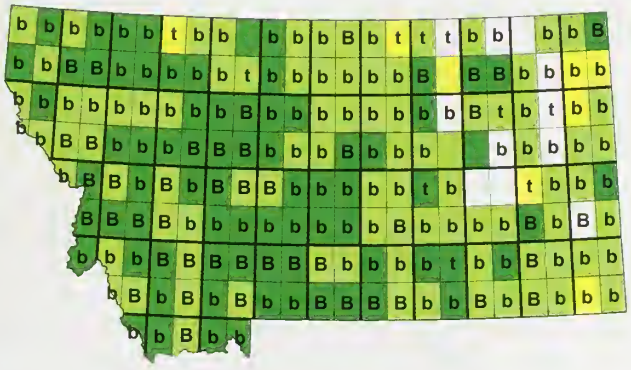




American Robin

Turdus migratorius

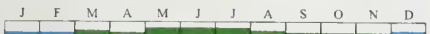
2003-2011 = 13537

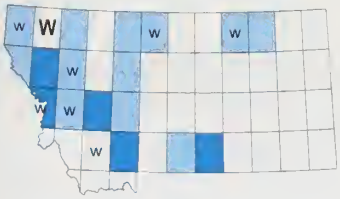


Varied Thrush

Ixoreus naevius

2003-2011 = 947 SOC

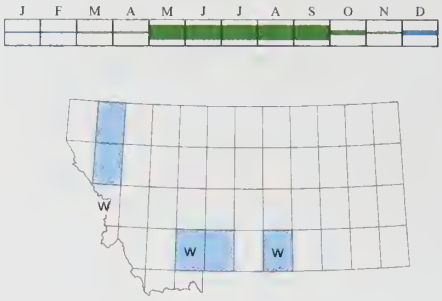


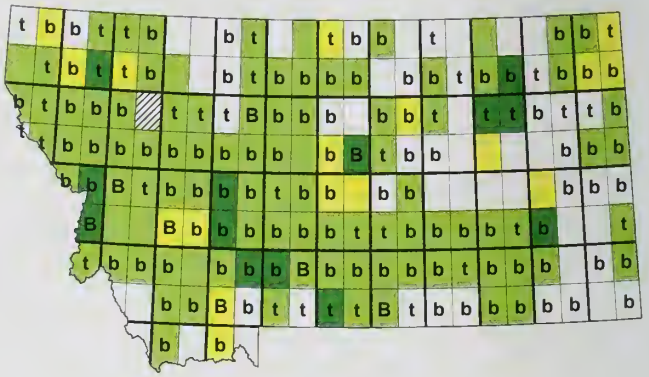


Gray Catbird

Dumetella carolinensis

2003-2011 = 1894

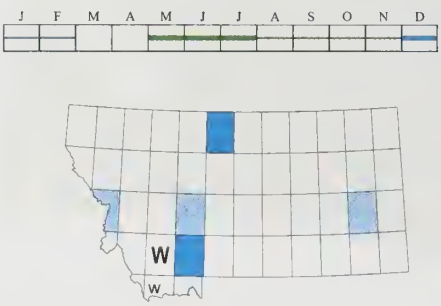




Northern Mockingbird

Mimus polyglottos

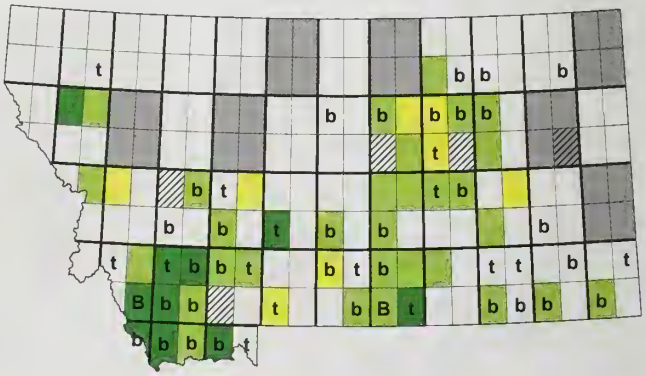
2003-2011 = 23



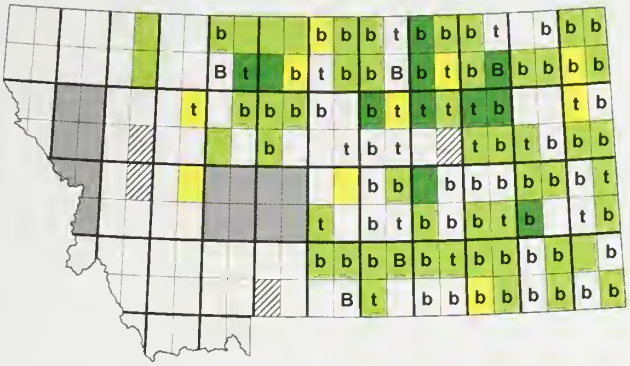
Sage Thrasher

Oreoscopes montanus

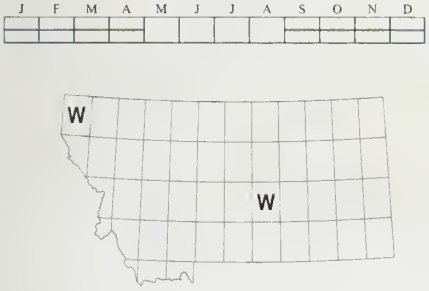
2003-2011 = 313 SOC

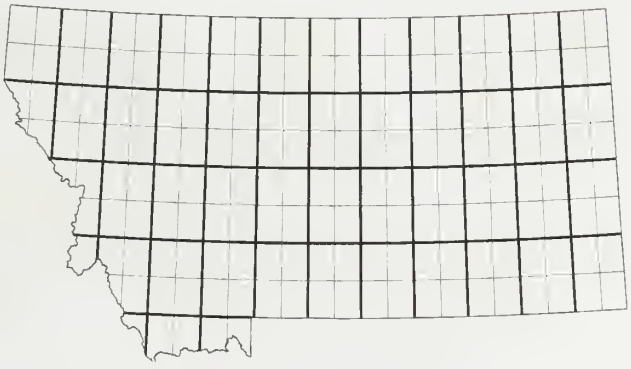


Brown Thrasher
Toxostoma rufum
2003-2011 = 403



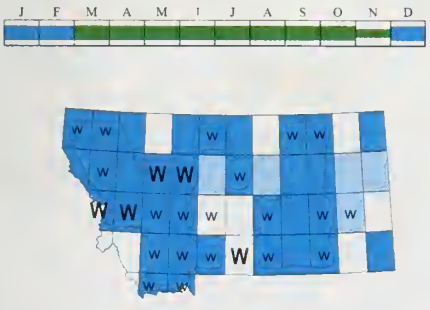
Curve-billed Thrasher
Toxostoma curvirostre
2003-2011 = 2 R1

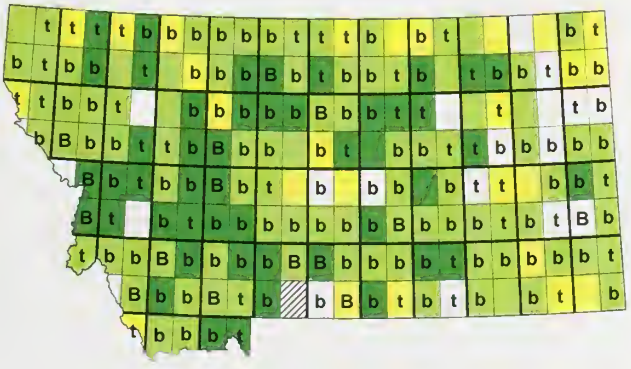




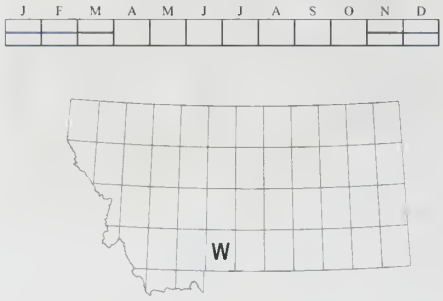
Sturnidae

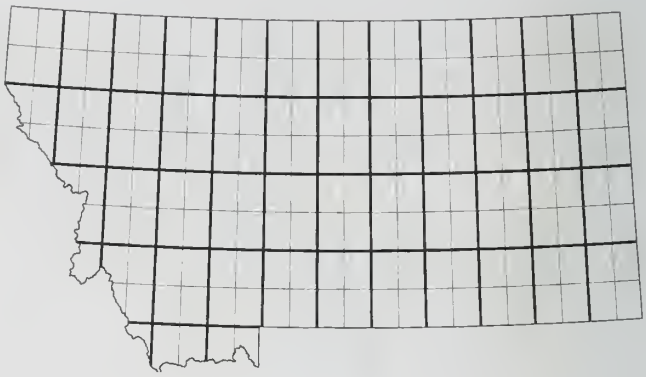
European Starling
Sturnus vulgaris
2003-2011 = 3183



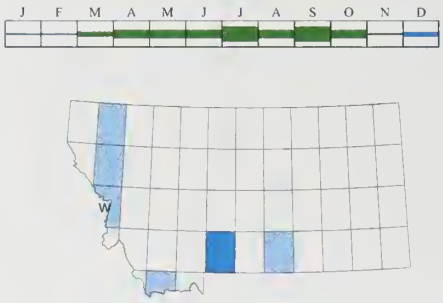


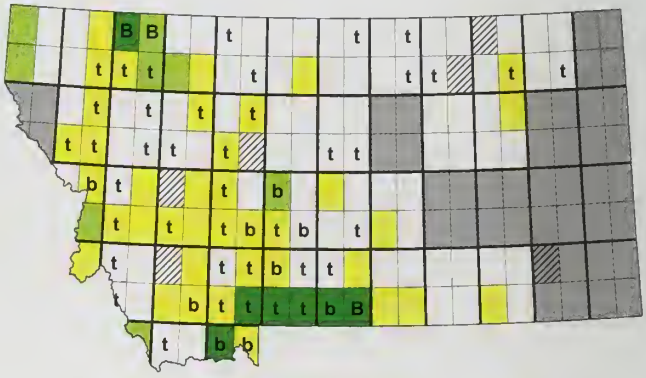
Siberian Accentor
Prunella montanella
2003-2011 = 1 R1



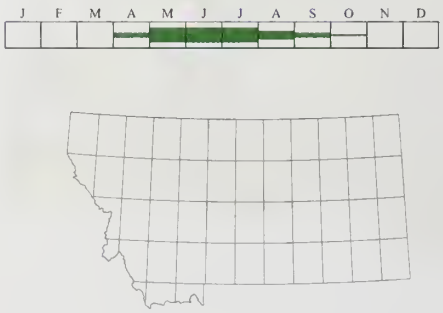


American Pipit
Anthus rubescens
2003-2011 = 236



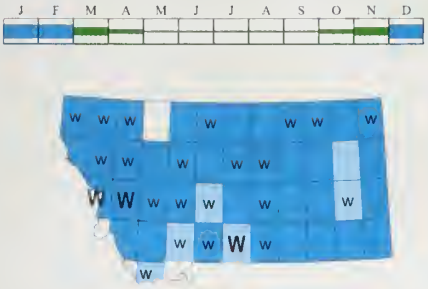


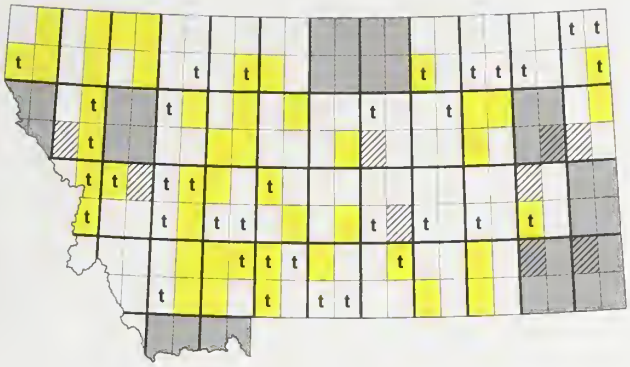
Sprague's Pipit
Anthus spragueii
2003-2011 = 2598 C



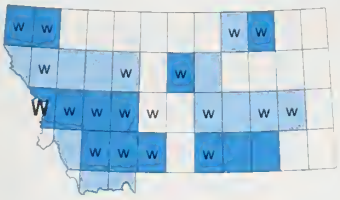
Bombycillidae

Bohemian Waxwing
Bombycilla garrulus
2003-2011 = 288



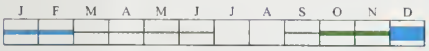


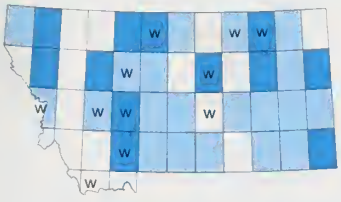
Cedar Waxwing
Bombycilla cedrorum
2003-2011 = 1982

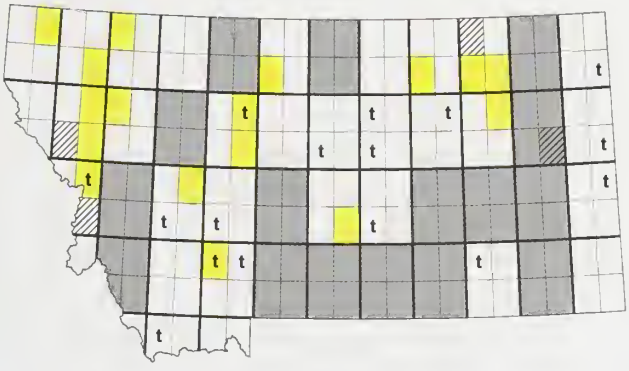


Calcariidae

Lapland Longspur
Calcarius lapponicus
2003-2011 = 39



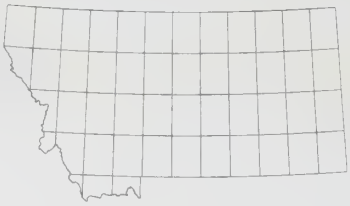


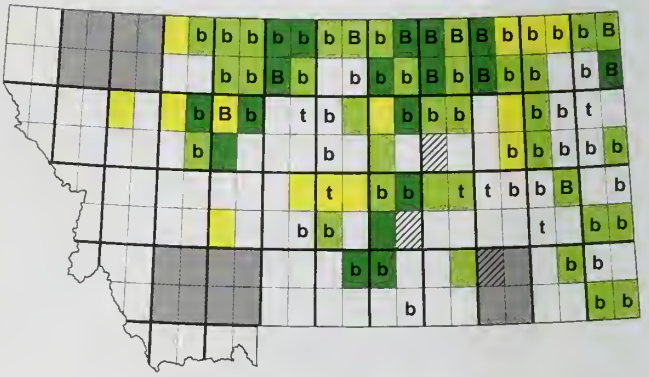


Chestnut-collared Longspur

Calcarius ornatus

2003-2011 = 4097 SOC

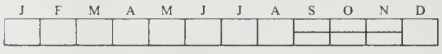


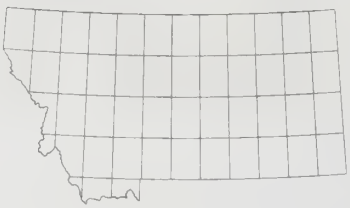


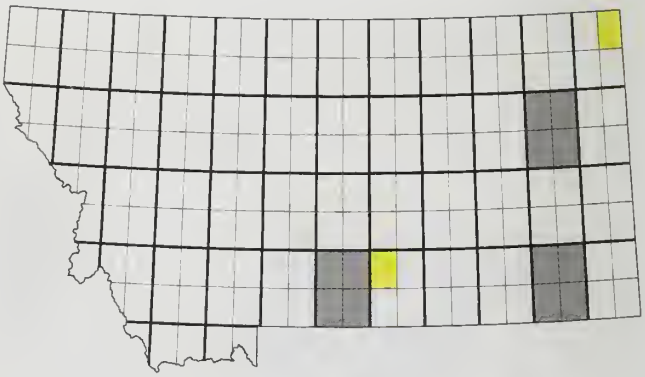
Smith's Longspur

Calcarius pictus

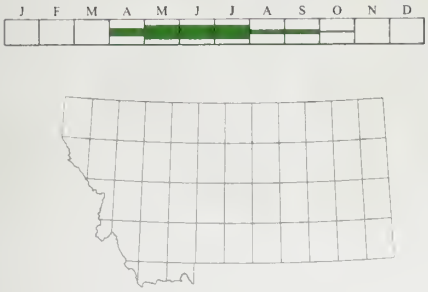
2003-2011 = 0 R1

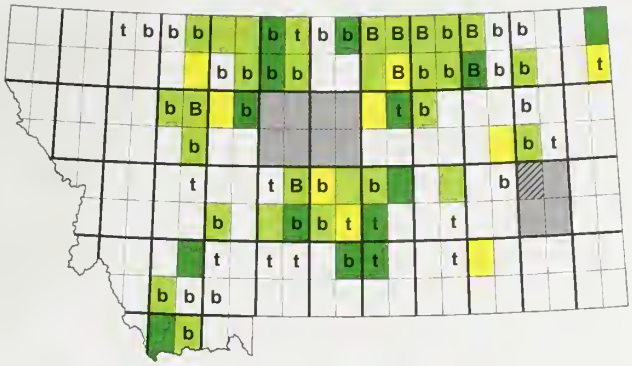






McCown's Longspur
Rhynchophanes mccownii
2003-2011 = 1424 SOC

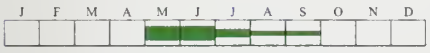


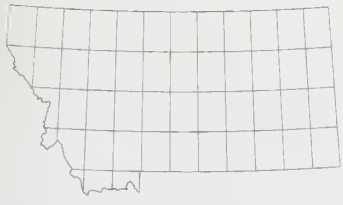


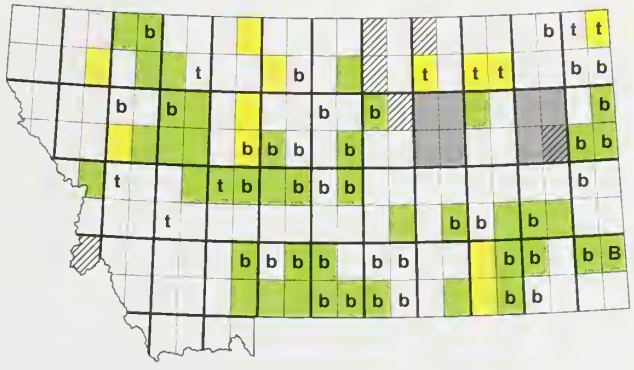
Snow Bunting
Plectrophenax nivalis
2003-2011 = 101

Parulidae

Ovenbird
Seiurus aurocapilla
2003-2011 = 514 SI



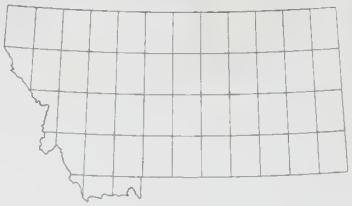


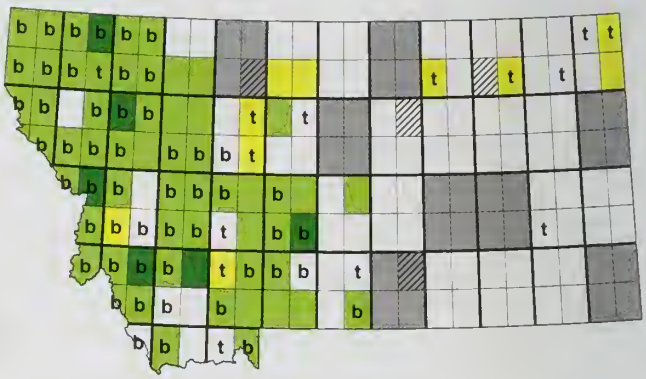


Northern Waterthrush

Parkesia noveboracensis

2003-2011 = 631

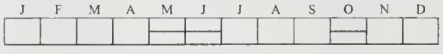


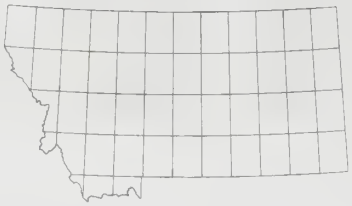


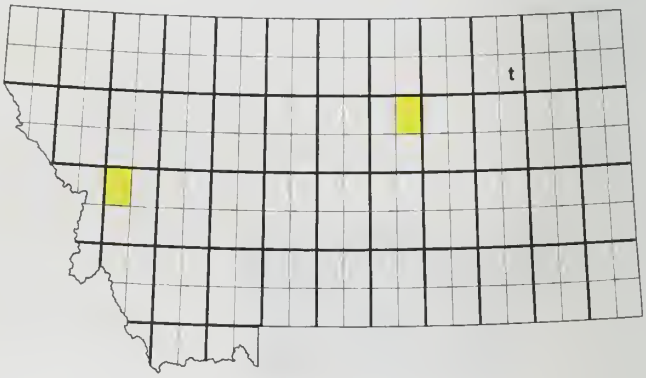
Golden-winged Warbler

Vermivora chrysoptera

2003-2011 = 2 R1



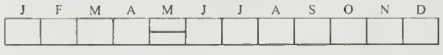


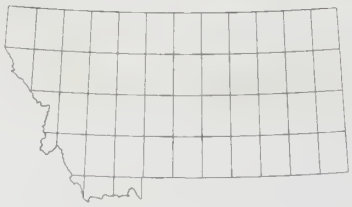


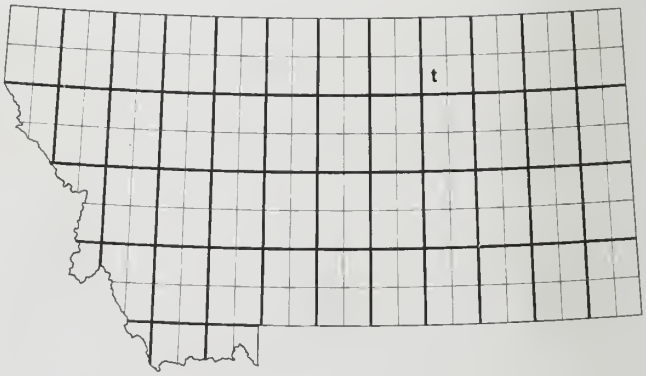
Blue-winged Warbler

Vermivora cyanoptera

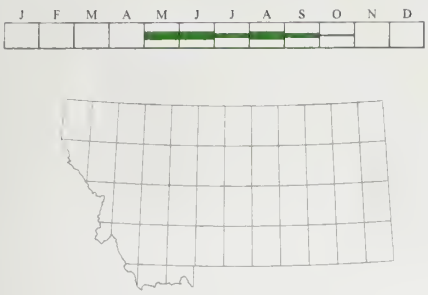
2003-2011 = 1 R1

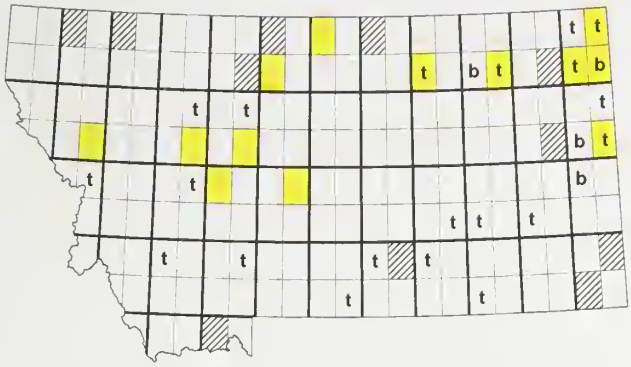




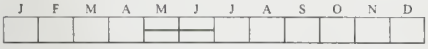


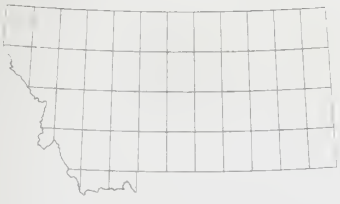
Black-and-white Warbler
Mniotilta varia
2003-2011 = 68 SI

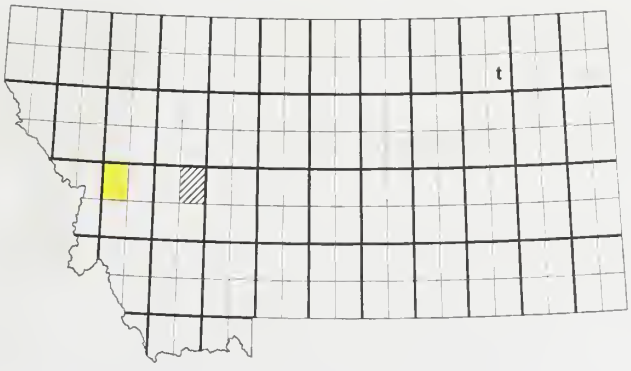




Prothonotary Warbler
Protonotaria citrea
2003-2011 = 1 R1



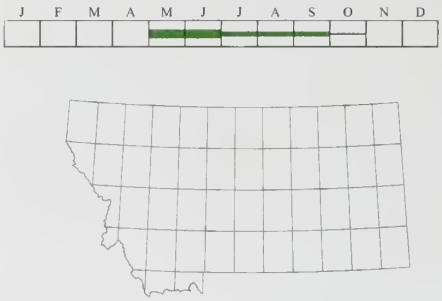


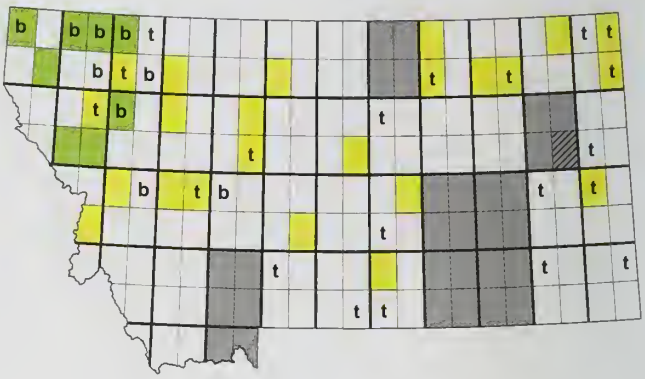


Tennessee Warbler

Oreothlypis peregrina

2003-2011 = 59 SI

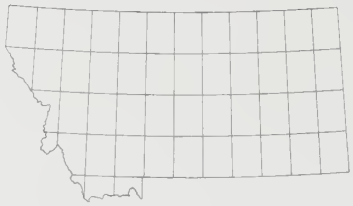


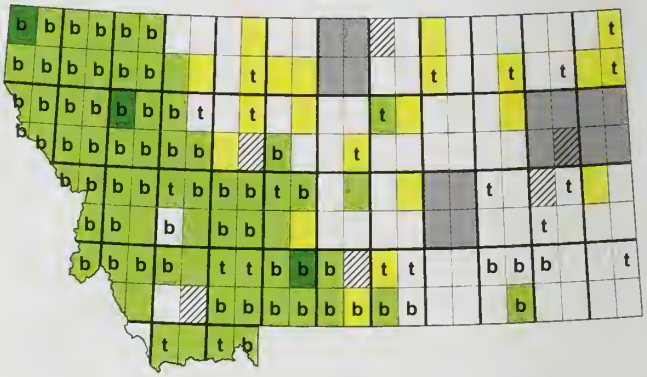


Orange-crowned Warbler

Oreothlypis celata

2003-2011 = 1168





Nashville Warbler

Oreothlypis ruficapilla

2003-2011 = 146

Connecticut Warbler

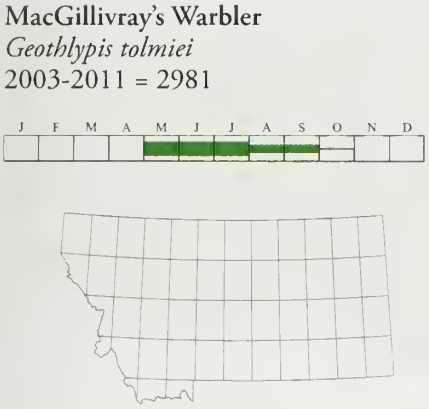
Oporornis agilis

2003-2011 = 4 R1

MacGillivray's Warbler

Geothlypis tolmiei

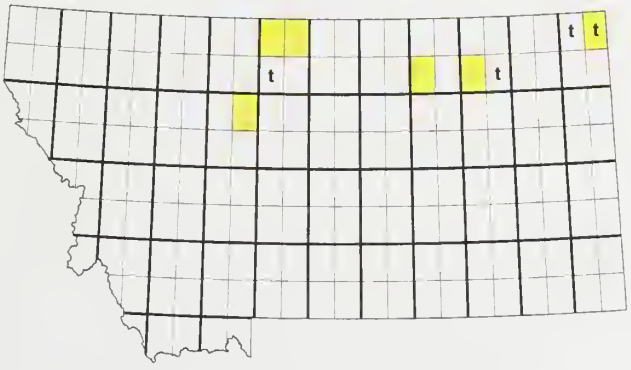
2003-2011 = 2981



Mourning Warbler

Geothlypis philadelphia

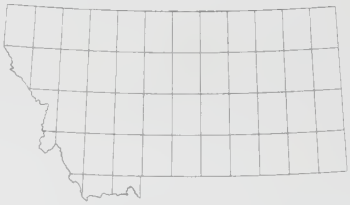
2003-2011 = 24

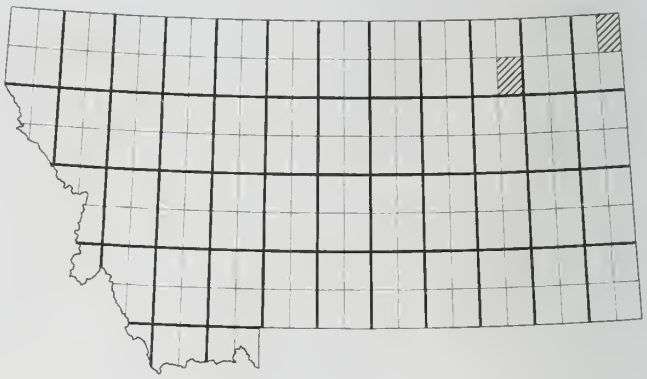


Kentucky Warbler

Geothlypis formosa

2003-2011 = 0 R1

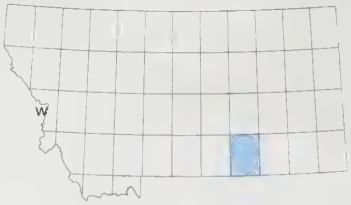




Common Yellowthroat

Geothlypis trichas

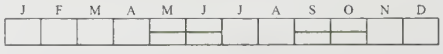
2003-2011 = 2058

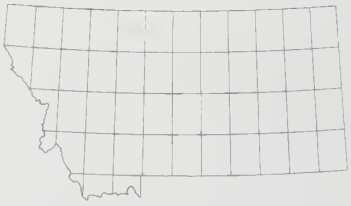


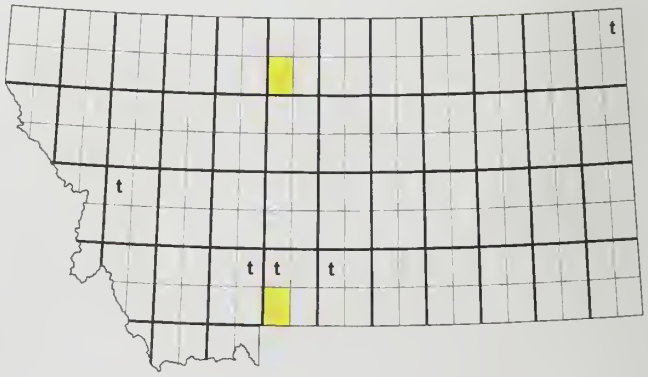
Hooded Warbler

Setophaga citrina

2003-2011 = 5 R1



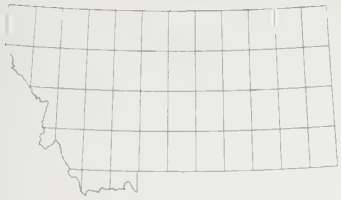




American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

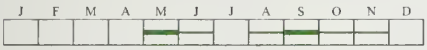
2003-2011 = 644

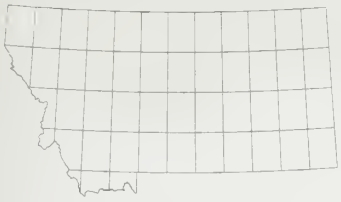


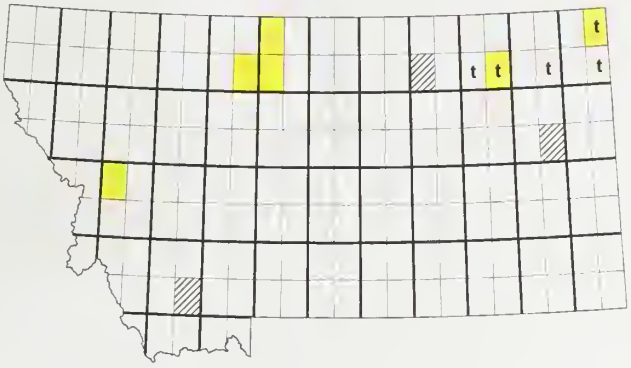
Cape May Warbler

Setophaga tigrina

2003-2011 = 10



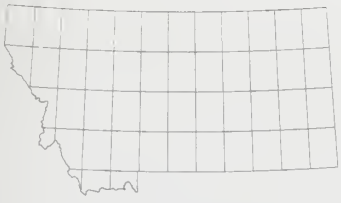




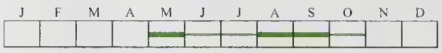
Northern Parula

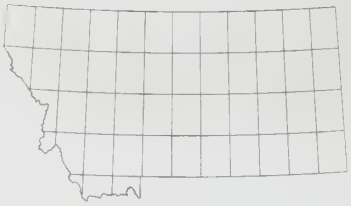
Setophaga americana

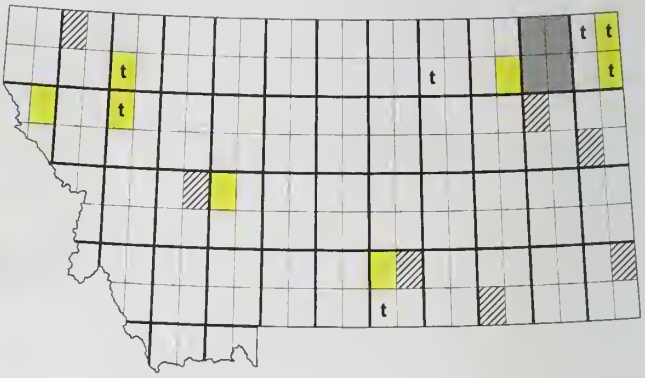
2003-2011 = 9 R1



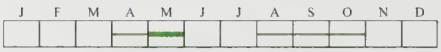
Magnolia Warbler
Setophaga magnolia
2003-2011 = 19

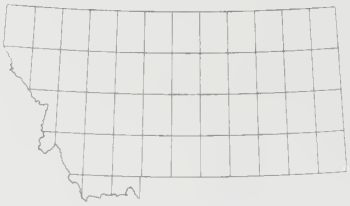


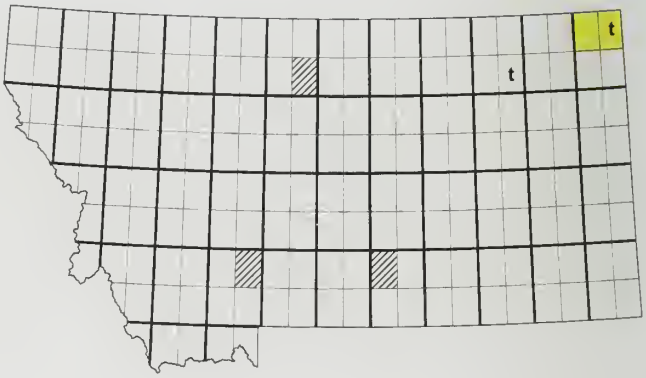




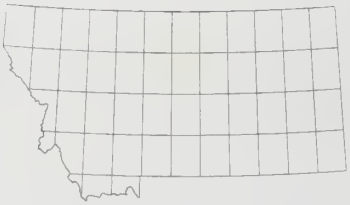
Bay-breasted Warbler
Setophaga castanea
2003-2011 = 6 R2

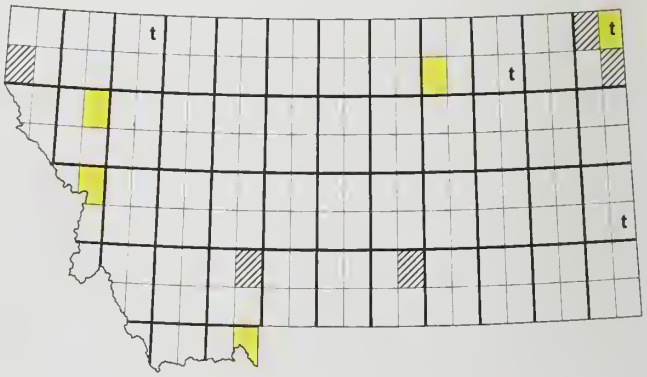






Blackburnian Warbler
Setophaga fusca
2003-2011 = 12 R2

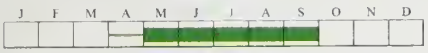


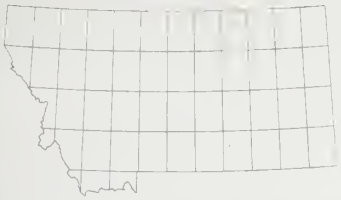


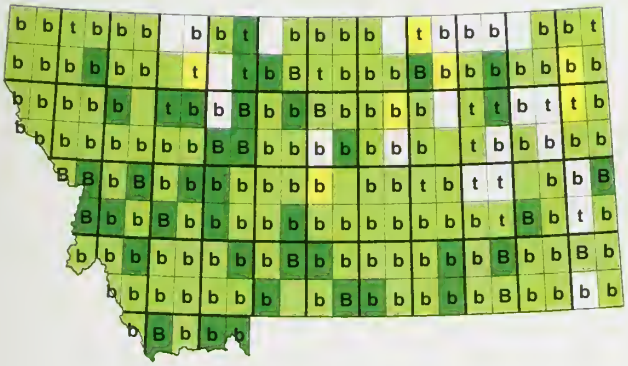
Yellow Warbler

Setophaga petechia

2003-2011 = 6481



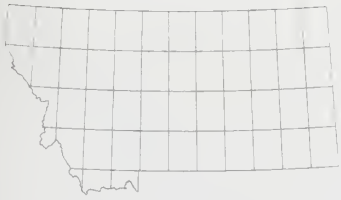


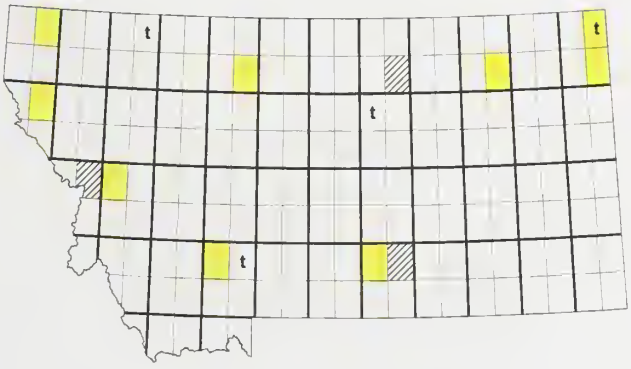


Chestnut-sided Warbler

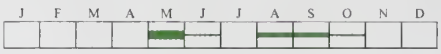
Setophaga pensylvanica

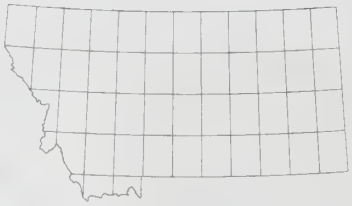
2003-2011 = 7

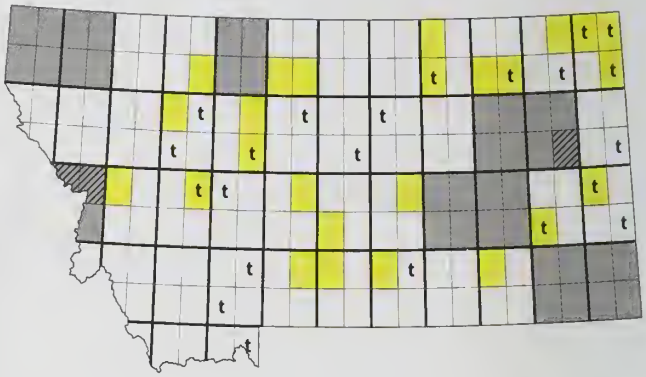


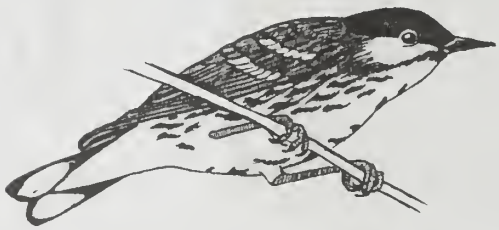


Blackpoll Warbler
Setophaga striata
2003-2011 = 46

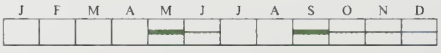


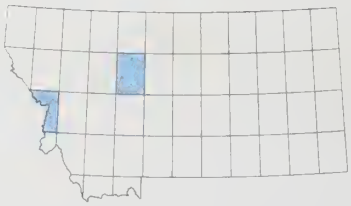






Black-throated Blue Warbler
Setophaga caerulescens
2003-2011 = 11





Palm Warbler

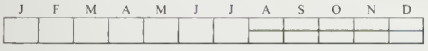
Setophaga palmarum

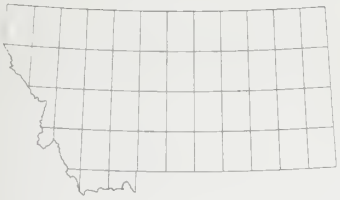
2003-2011 = 15

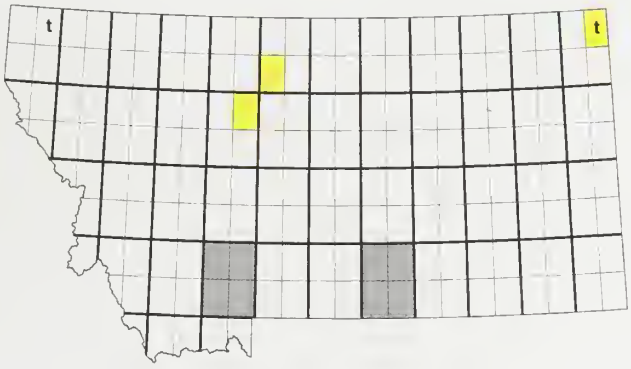
Pine Warbler

Setophaga pinus

2003-2011 = 3 R1



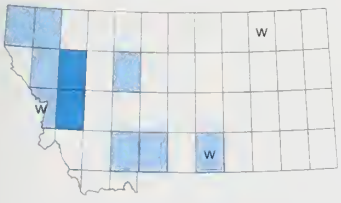




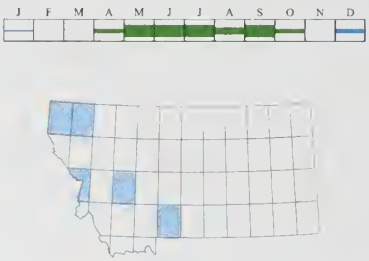
Yellow-rumped Warbler

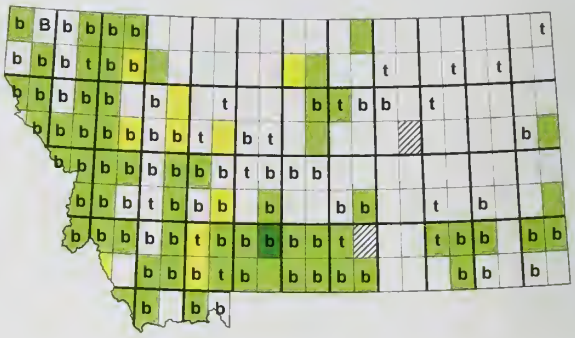
Setophaga coronata

2003-2011 = 8192



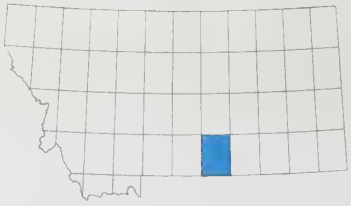
Audubon's Warbler
Setophaga coronata auduboni
2003-2011 = 2143

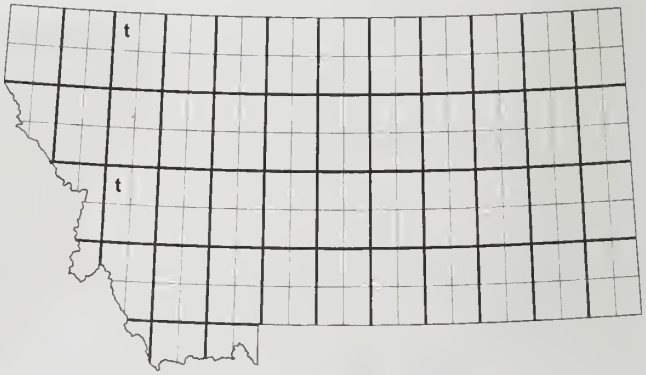




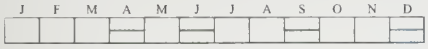
Myrtle Warbler
Setophaga coronata coronata
2003-2011 = 57

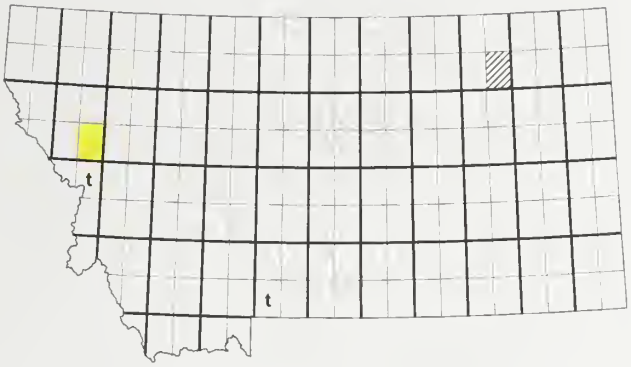
Yellow-throated Warbler
Setophaga dominica
2003-2011 = 2 R1



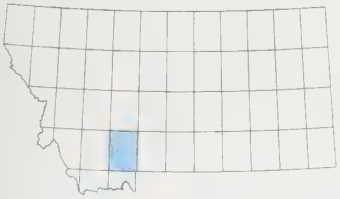


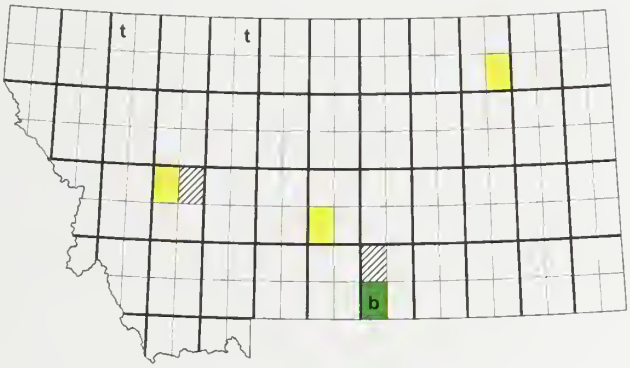
Prairie Warbler
Setophaga discolor
2003-2011 = 2 R1



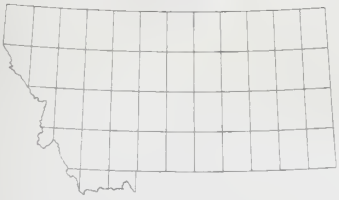


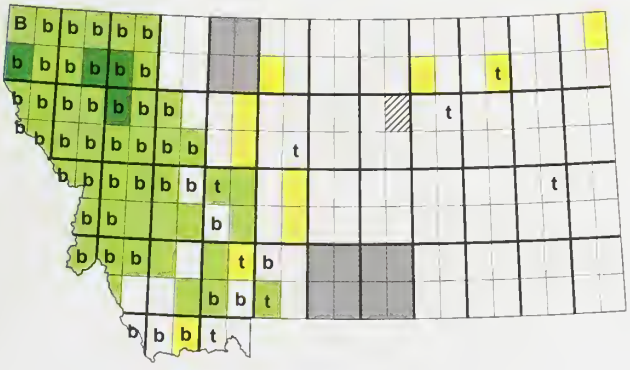
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Setophaga nigrescens
2003-2011 = 3 R1



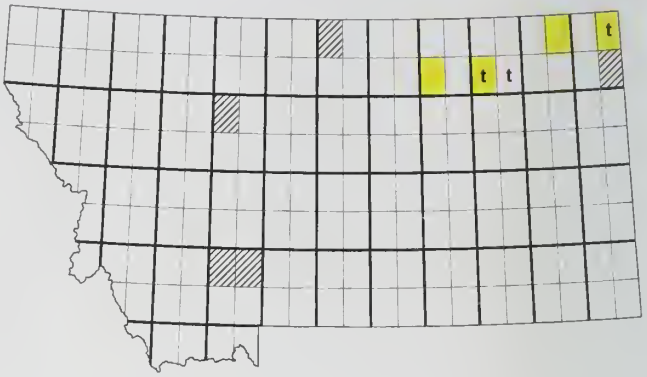


Townsend's Warbler
Setophaga townsendi
2003-2011 = 3118

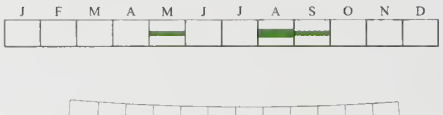


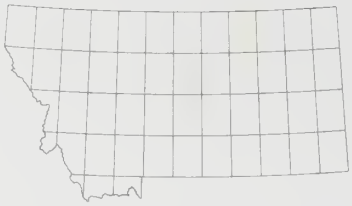


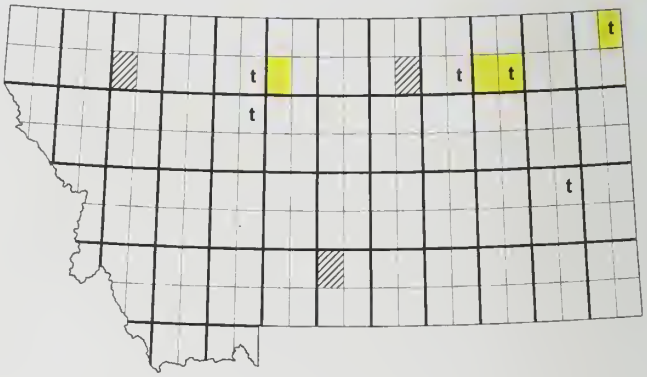
Black-throated Green Warbler
Setophaga virens
2003-2011 = 9 R2



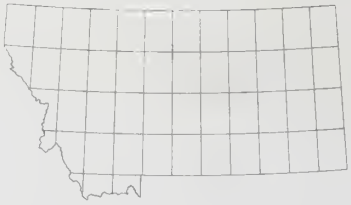
Canada Warbler
Cardellina canadensis
2003-2011 = 21







Wilson's Warbler
Cardellina pusilla
2003-2011 = 701



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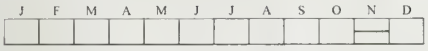
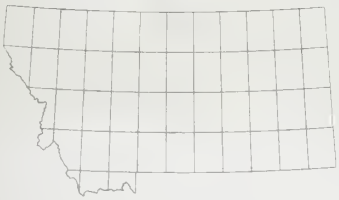
b t t t t t

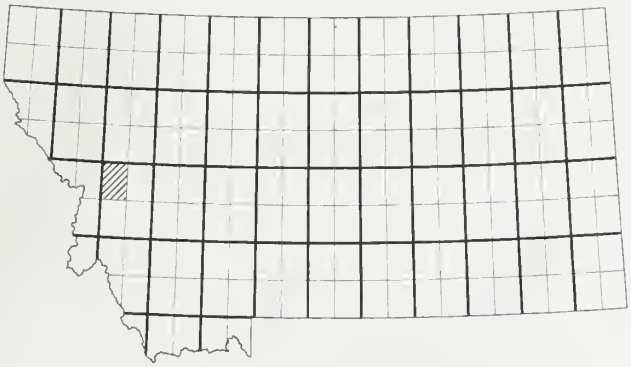
Painted Redstart

Myioborus pictus

2003-2011 = 0 R1



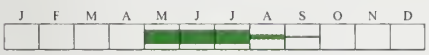


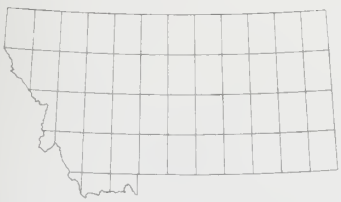


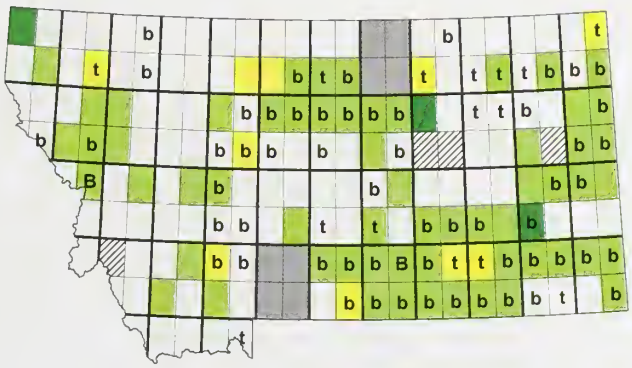
Yellow-breasted Chat

Icteria virens

2003-2011 = 696



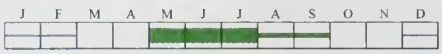


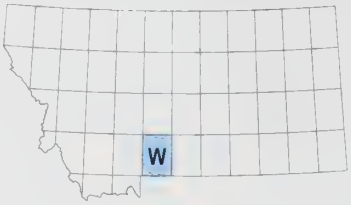


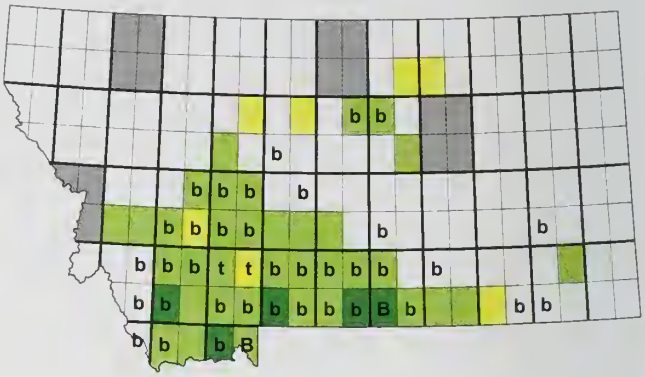
Green-tailed Towhee

Pipilo chlorurus

2003-2011 = 442 SOC



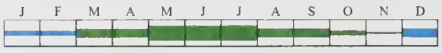


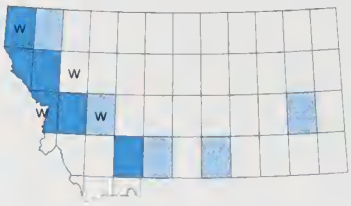


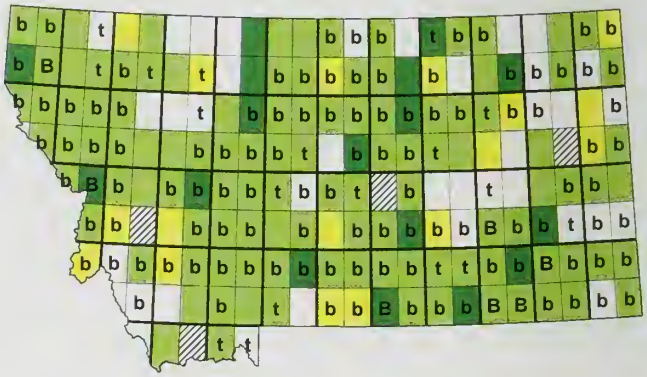
Spotted Towhee

Pipilo maculatus

2003-2011 = 2568



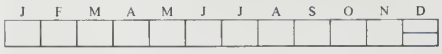


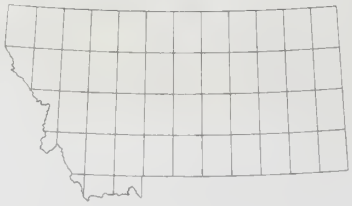


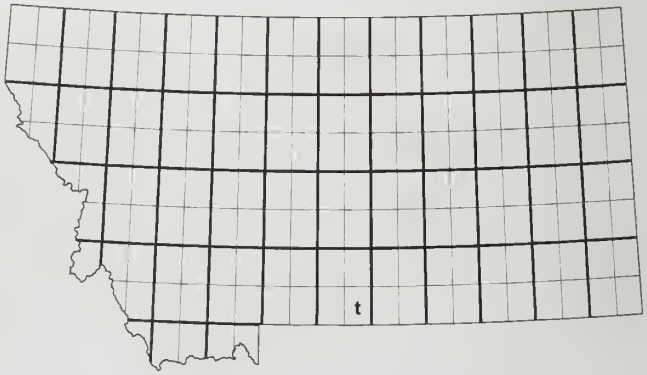
Eastern Towhee

Pipilo erythrophthalmus

2003-2011 = 1 R1



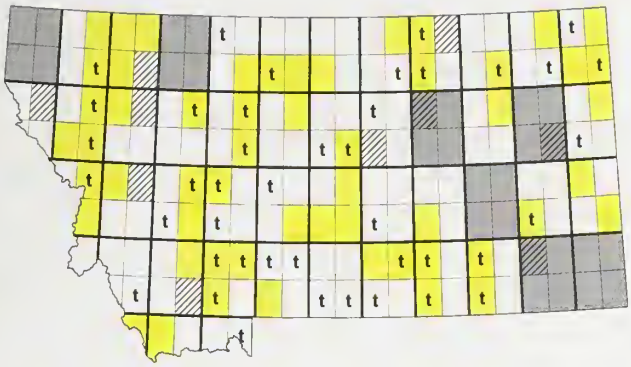




American Tree Sparrow

Spizella arborea

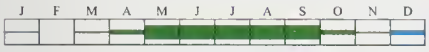
2003-2011 = 281

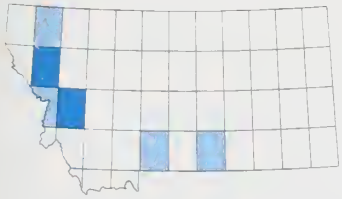


Chipping Sparrow

Spizella passerina

2003-2011 = 8067

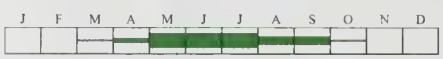


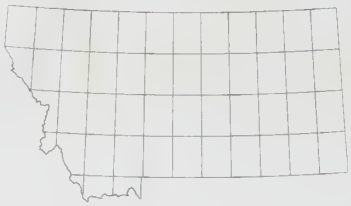


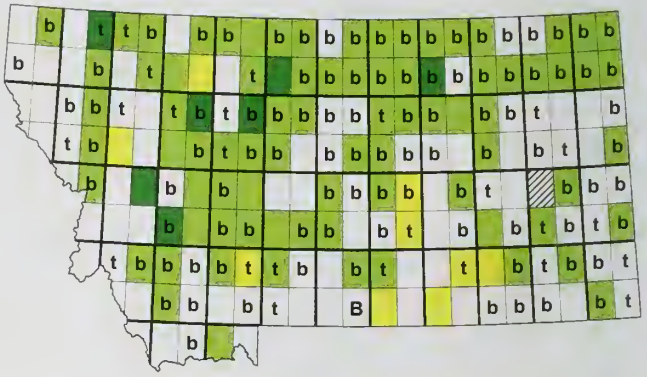
Clay-colored Sparrow

Spizella pallida

2003-2011 = 740



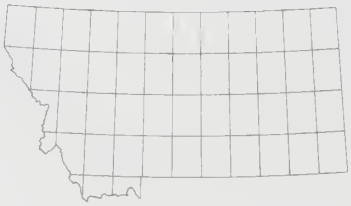


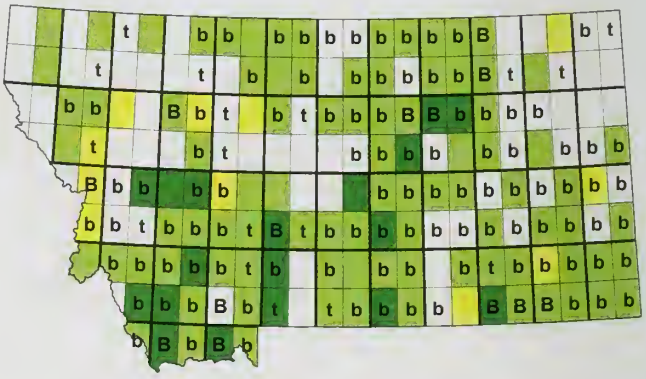


Brewer's Sparrow

Spizella breweri

2003-2011 = 2658 SOC

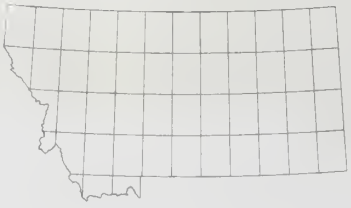


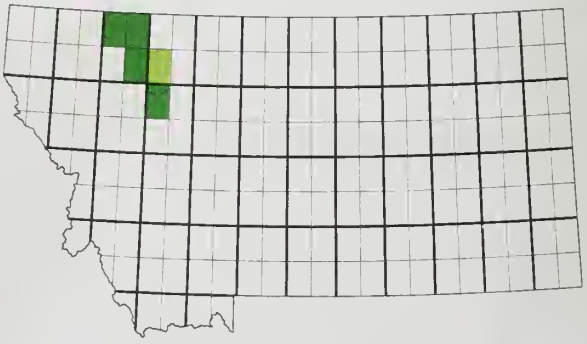


Timberline Sparrow

Spizella breweri taverneri

2003-2011 = 0

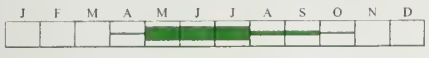


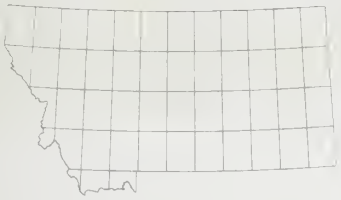


Field Sparrow

Spizella pusilla

2003-2011 = 518

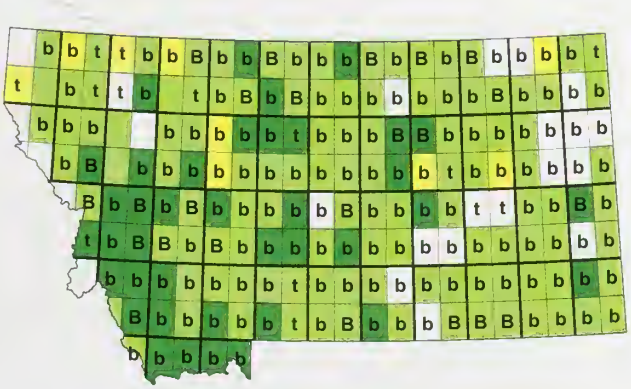




Vesper Sparrow

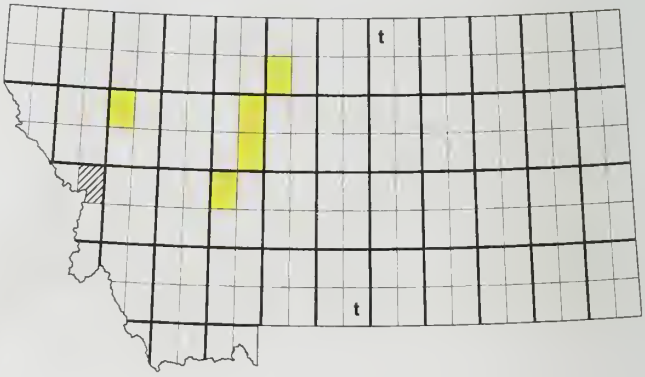
Pooecetes gramineus

2003-2011 = 9150

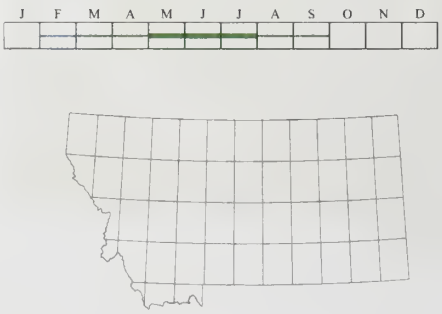


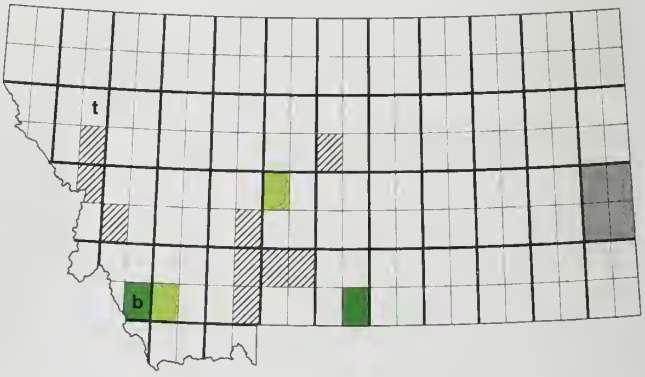
Lark Sparrow
Chondestes grammacus
2003-2011 = 2272

Black-throated Sparrow
Amphispiza bilineata
2003-2011 = 2 R1

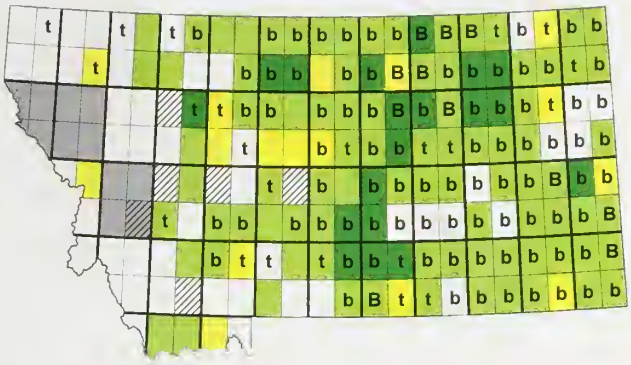


Sage Sparrow
Amphispiza belli
2003-2011 = 12 SOC R2

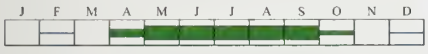


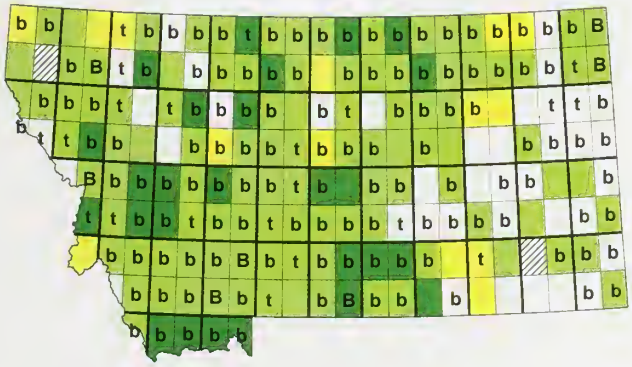


Lark Bunting
Calamospiza melanocorys
2003-2011 = 4554

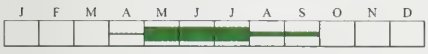


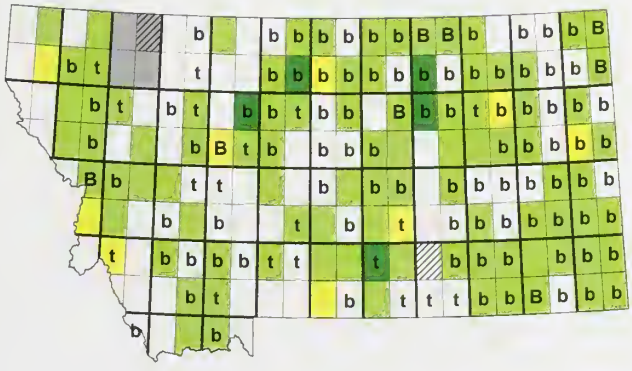
Savannah Sparrow
Passerculus sandwichensis
2003-2011 = 3693



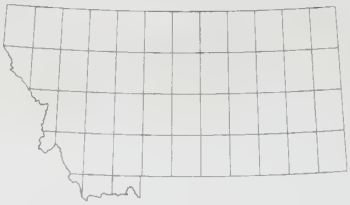


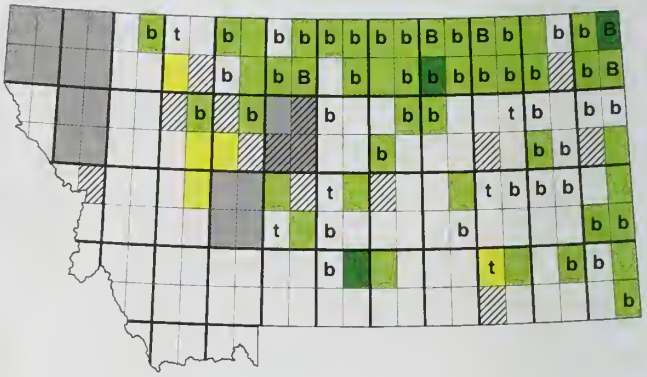
Grasshopper Sparrow
Ammodramus savannarum
2003-2011 = 2711 SOC



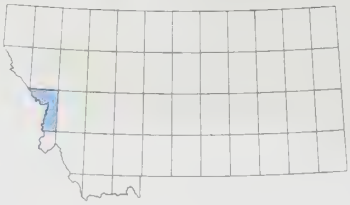


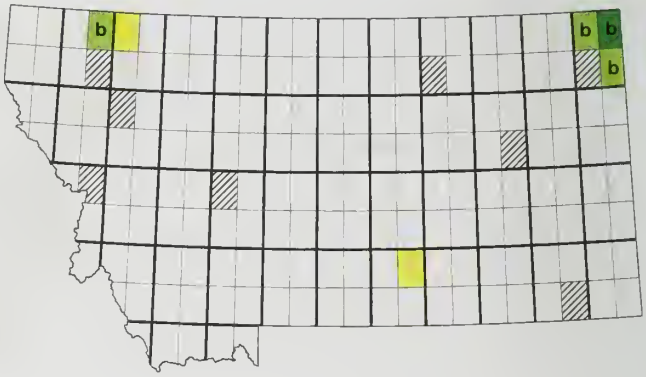
Baird's Sparrow
Ammodramus bairdii
2003-2011 = 1820 SOC



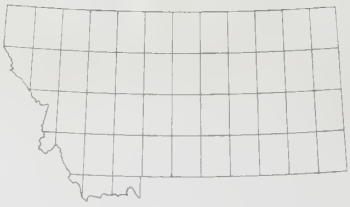


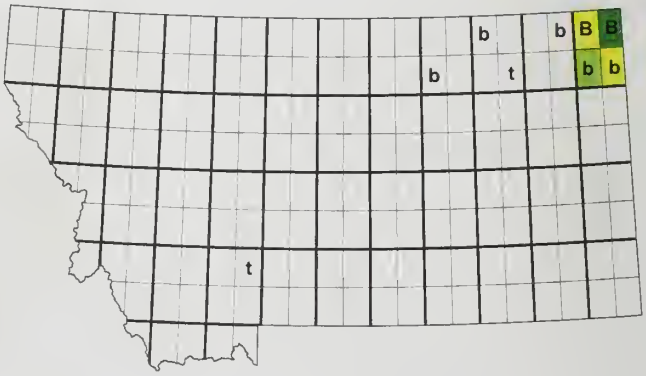
Le Conte's Sparrow
Ammodramus leconteii
2003-2011 = 26 SOC



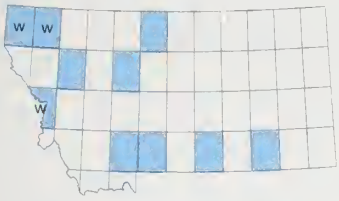


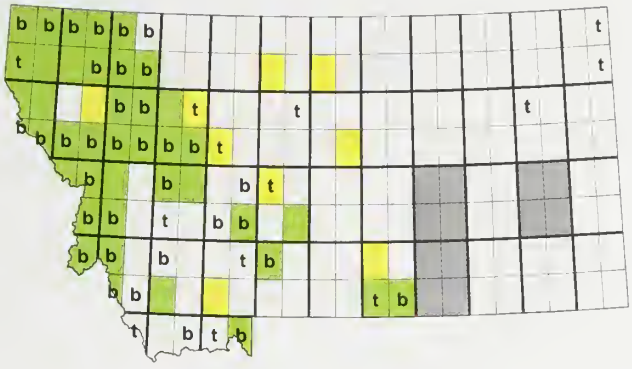
Nelson's Sparrow
Ammodramus nelsoni
2003-2011 = 107 SOC



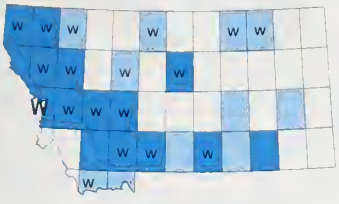


Fox Sparrow
Passerella iliaca
2003-2011 = 390

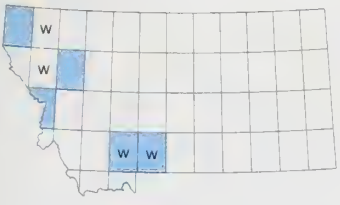


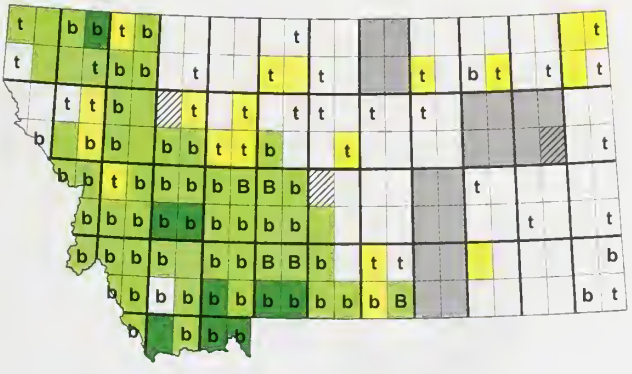


Song Sparrow
Melospiza melodia
2003-2011 = 4212

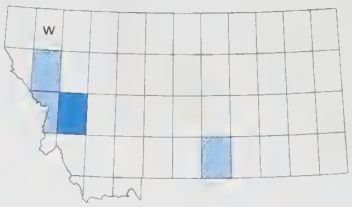


Lincoln's Sparrow
Melospiza lincolnii
2003-2011 = 1250

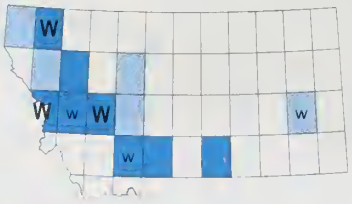




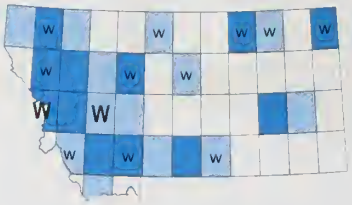
Swamp Sparrow
Melospiza georgiana
2003-2011 = 13

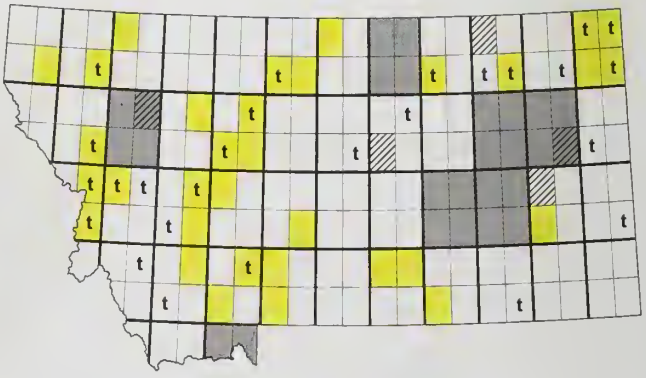


White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis
2003-2011 = 66



Harris's Sparrow
Zonotrichia querula
2003-2011 = 100

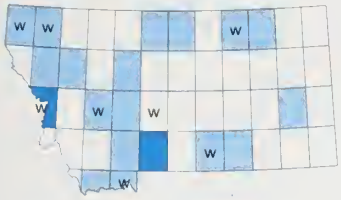


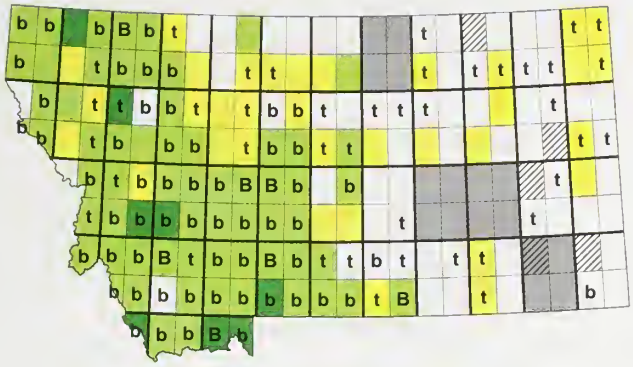


White-crowned Sparrow

Zonotrichia leucophrys

2003-2011 = 1534

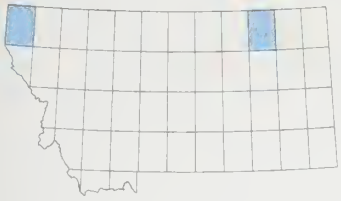




Golden-crowned Sparrow

Zonotrichia atricapilla

2003-2011 = 4 R1



Dark-eyed Junco

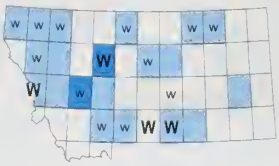
Junco hyemalis

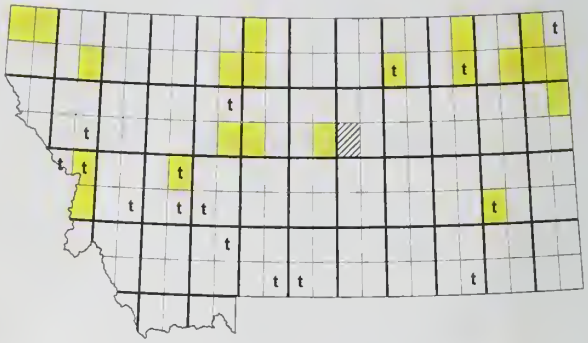
2003-2011 = 7681

Slate-colored Junco

Junco hyemalis hyemalis / cismontanus

2003-2011 = 93

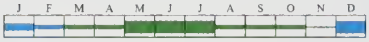


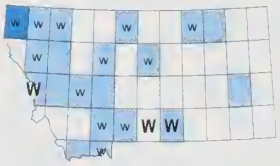


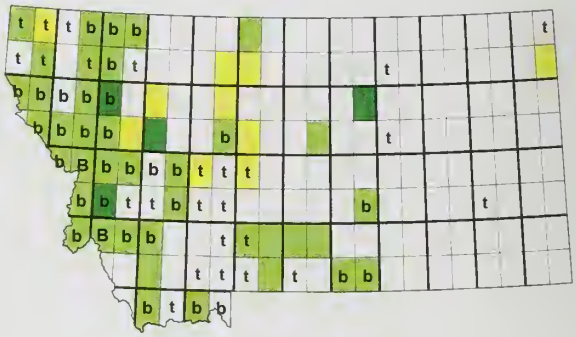
Oregon (Montana) Junco

Junco hyemalis montanus

2003-2011 = 1429



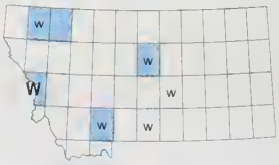


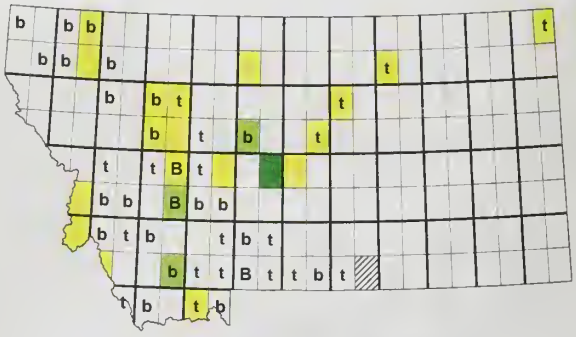


Pink-sided Junco

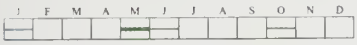
Junco hyemalis mearnsi

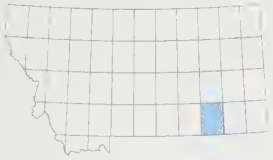
2003-2011 = 123



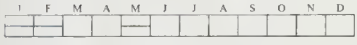


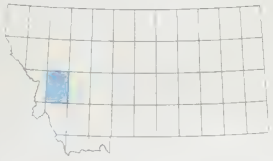
White-winged Junco
Junco hyemalis aikeni
2003-2011 = 6

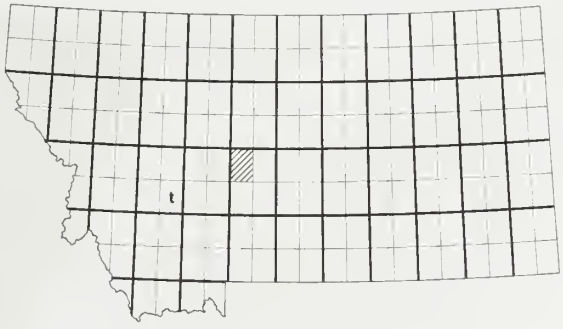




Gray-headed Junco
Junco hyemalis caniceps
2003-2011 = 1

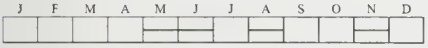


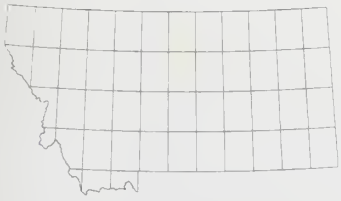


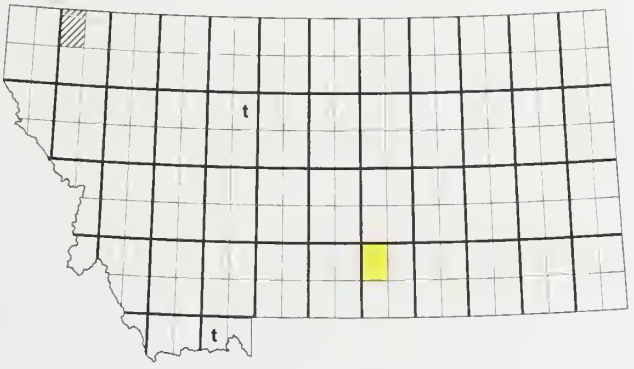


Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager
Piranga rubra
2003-2011 = 2 R1



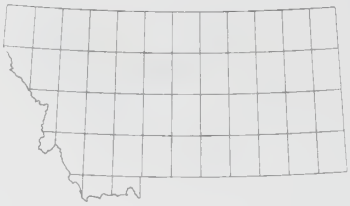


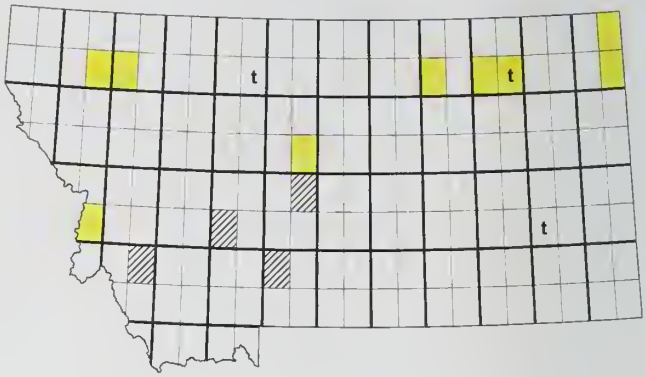


Scarlet Tanager

Piranga olivacea

2003-2011 = 3 R1

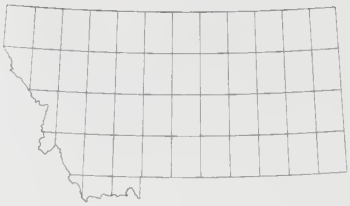


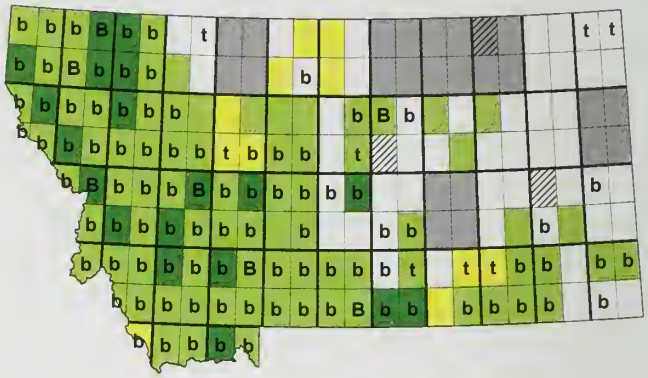


Western Tanager

Piranga ludoviciana

2003-2011 = 6109

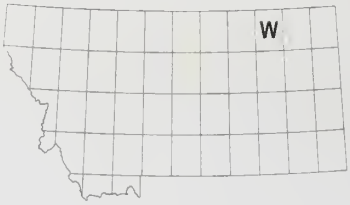




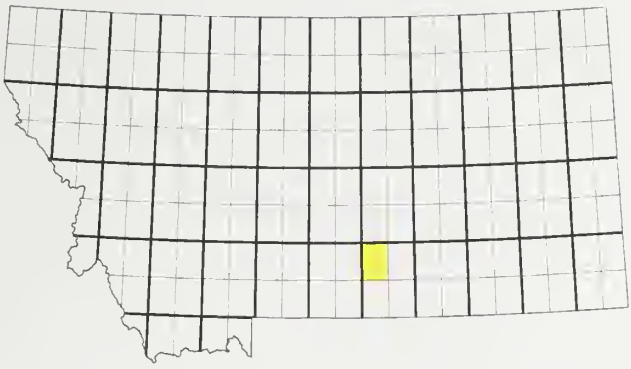
Northern Cardinal

Cardinalis cardinalis

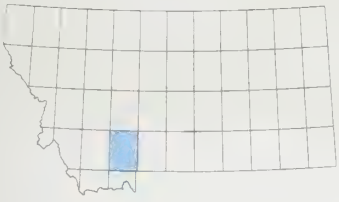
2003-2011 = 6 R1

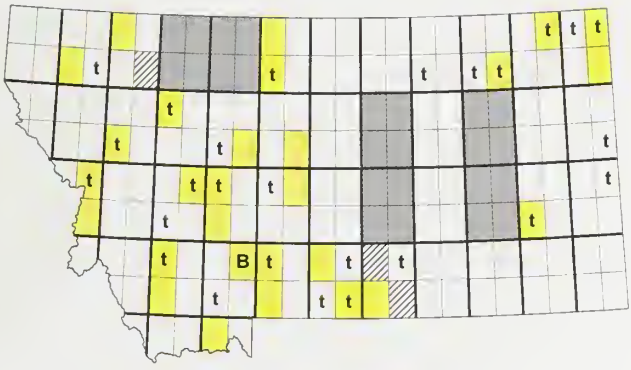


Pyrrhuloxia
Cardinalis sinuatus
2003-2011 = 0 R1

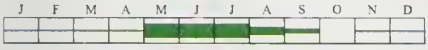


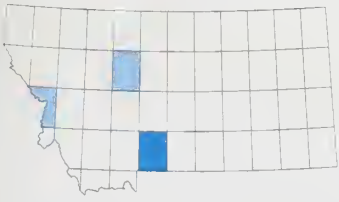
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Pheucticus ludovicianus
2003-2011 = 61

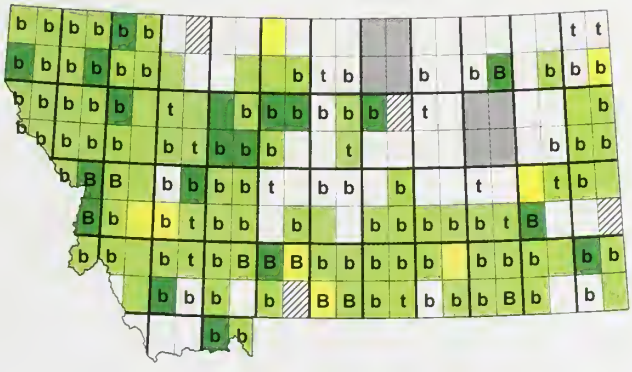




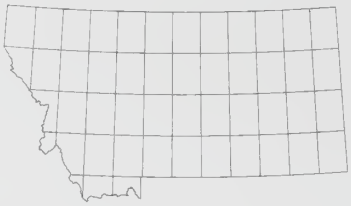
Black-headed Grosbeak
Pheucticus melanocephalus
2003-2011 = 1207

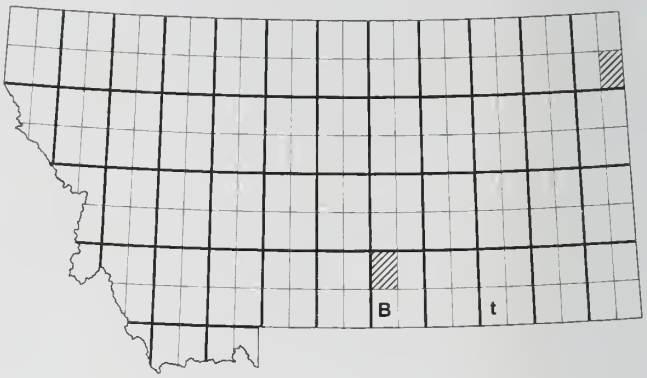




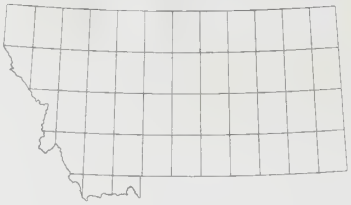


Blue Grosbeak
Passerina caerulea
2003-2011 = 7 R2

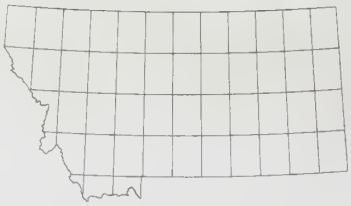


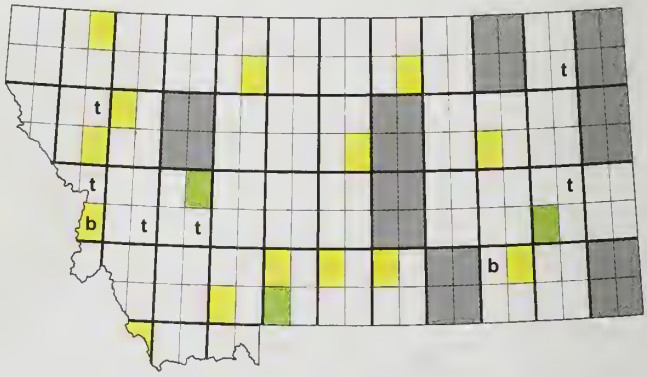


Lazuli Bunting
Passerina amoena
2003-2011 = 1677

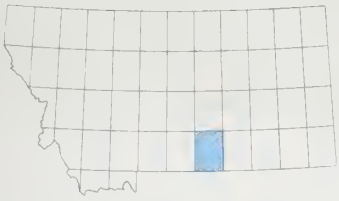


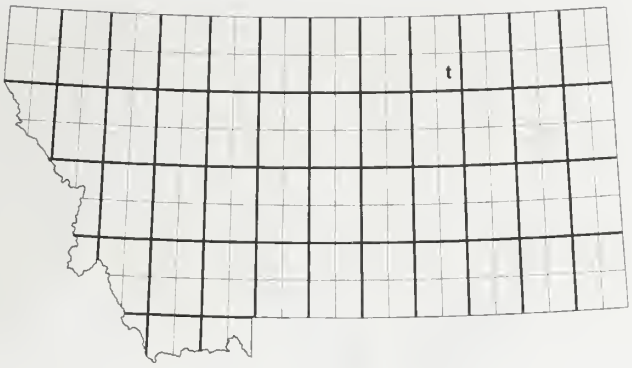
Indigo Bunting
Passerina cyanea
2003-2011 = 11



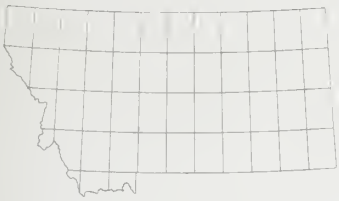


Painted Bunting
Passerina ciris
2003-2011 = 1 R1





Dickcissel
Spiza americana
2003-2011 = 44 SI



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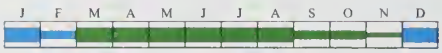
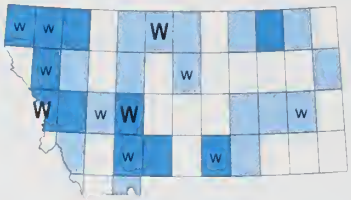
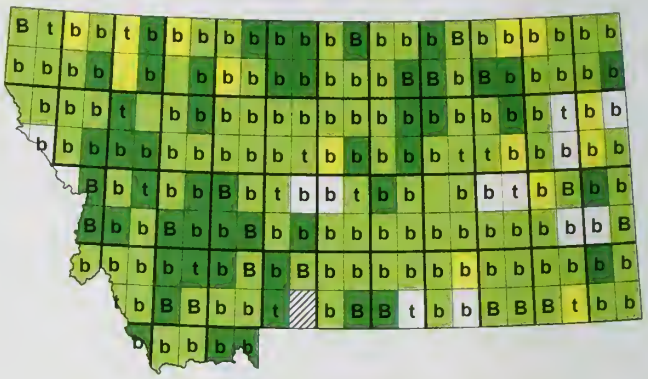
Red-winged Blackbird

Agelaius phoeniceus

2003-2011 = 5454



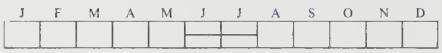


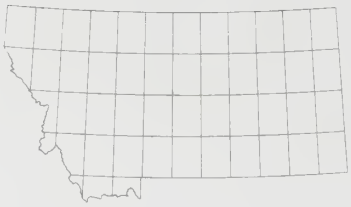


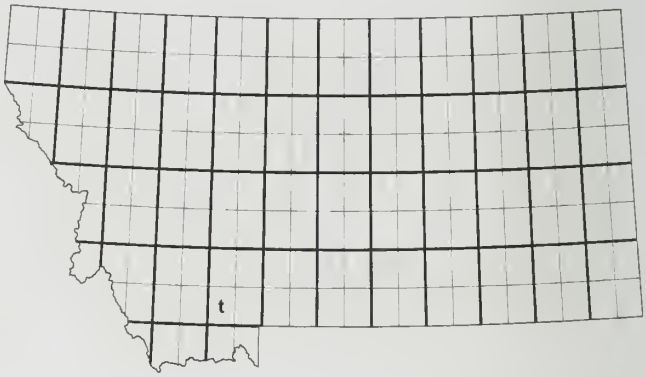
Eastern Meadowlark

Sturnella magna

2003-2011 = 1 R1



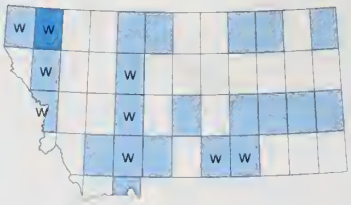


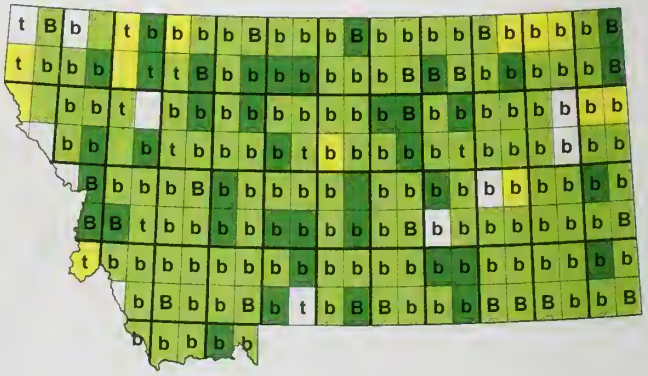


Western Meadowlark

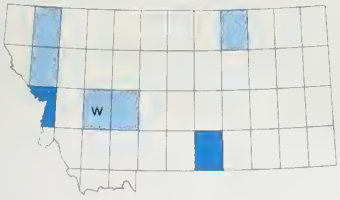
Sturnella neglecta

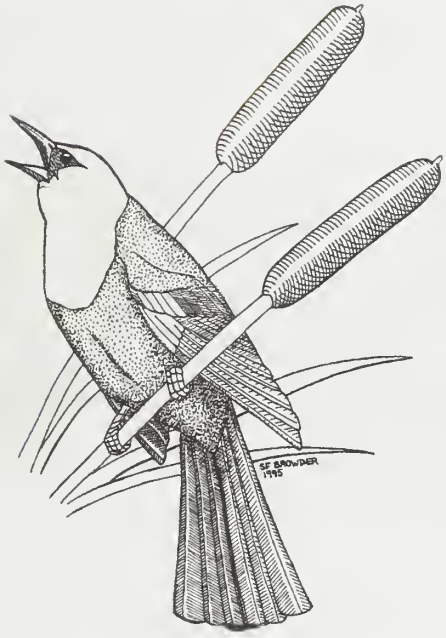
2003-2011 = 17702



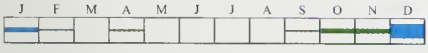


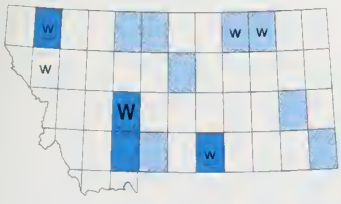
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus
2003-2011 = 1486

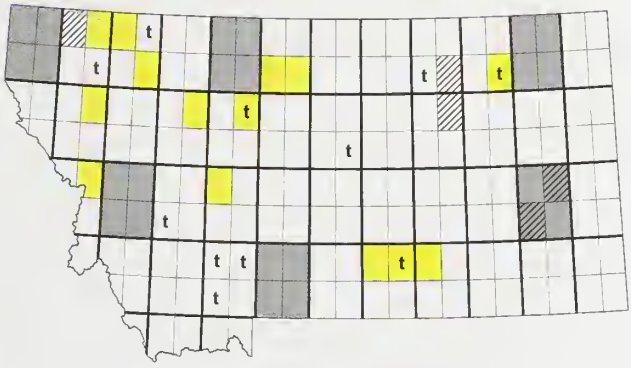




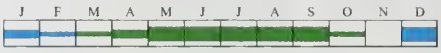
Rusty Blackbird
Euphagus carolinus
2003-2011 = 21

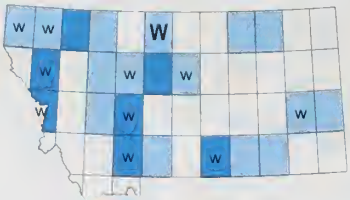


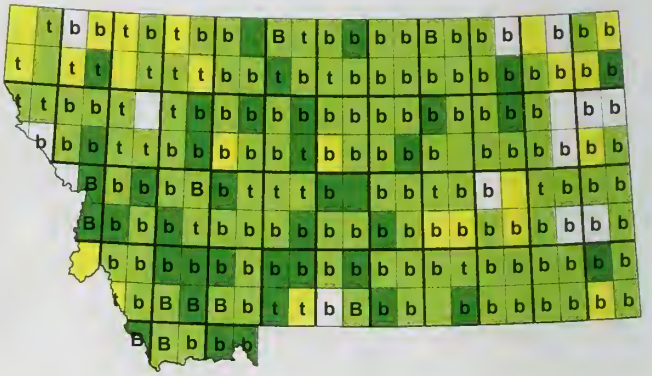




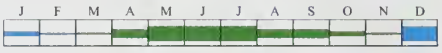
Brewer's Blackbird
Euphagus cyanocephalus
2003-2011 = 3430

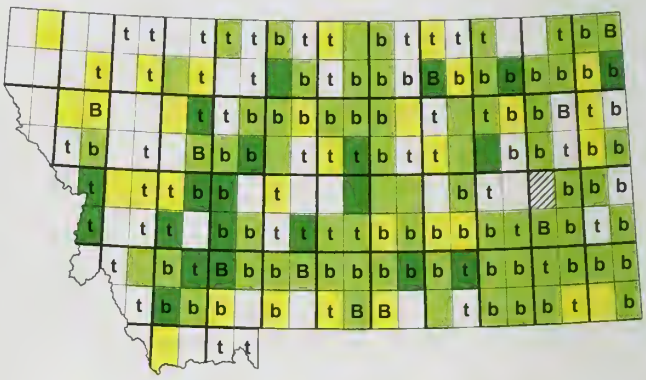




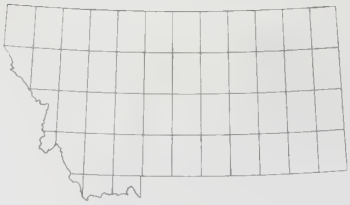


Common Grackle
Quiscalus quiscula
2003-2011 = 1091





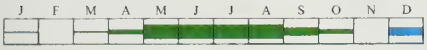
Great-tailed Grackle
Quiscalus mexicanus
2003-2011 = 1 R1

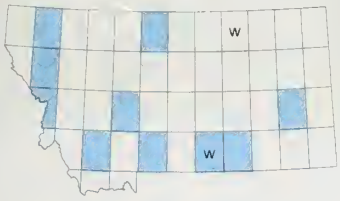


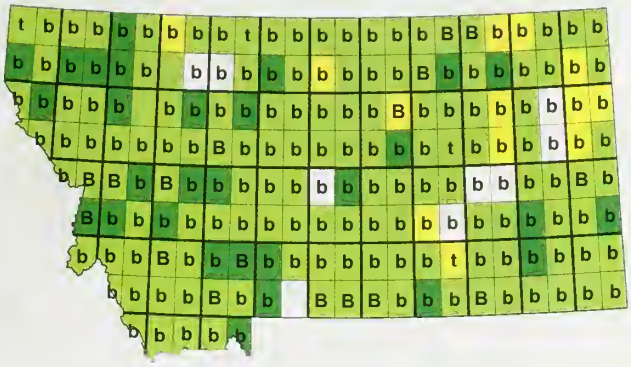
Brown-headed Cowbird

Molothrus ater

2003-2011 = 8264



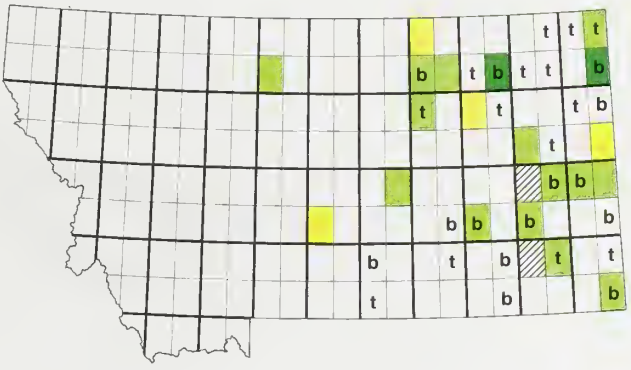




Orchard Oriole

Icterus spurius

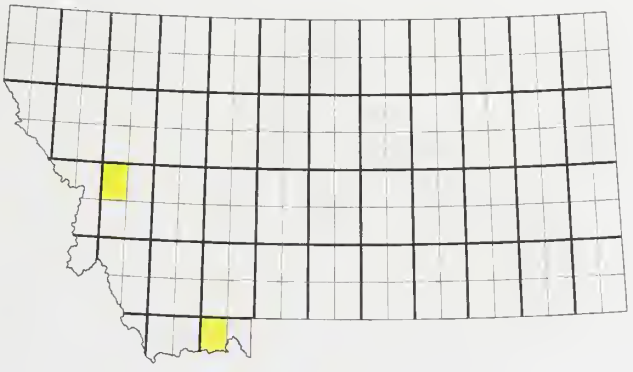
2003-2011 = 78



Hooded Oriole

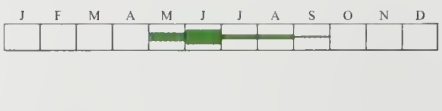
Icterus cucullatus

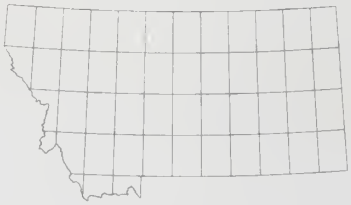
2003-2011 = 0 R1



Bullock's Oriole
Icterus bullockii
2003-2011 = 1161

Baltimore Oriole
Icterus galbula
2003-2011 = 114

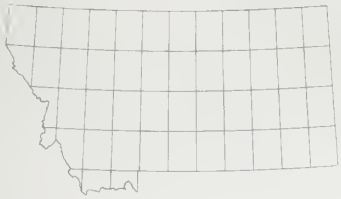


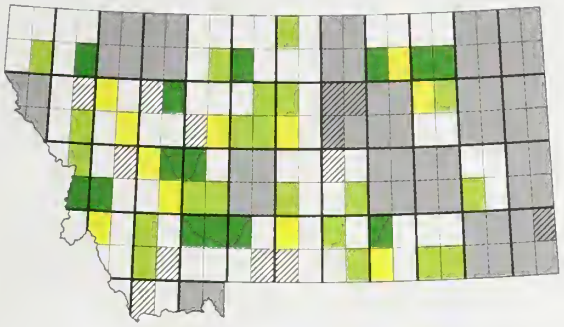


Northern Oriole

Icterus galbula

2003-2011 = 0



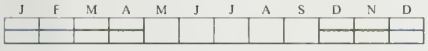


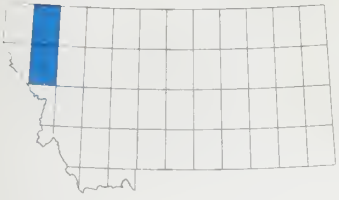
Fringillidae

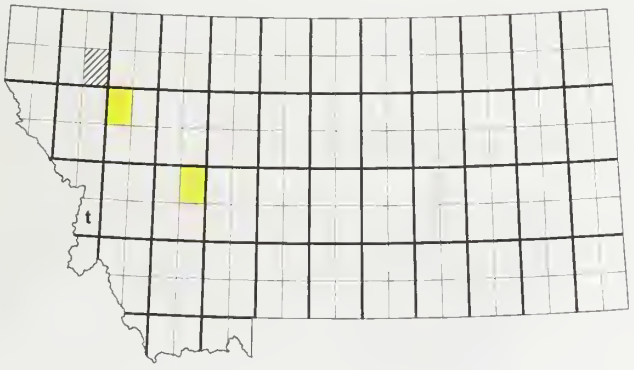
Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

2003-2011 = 1 R1



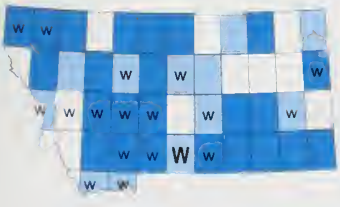




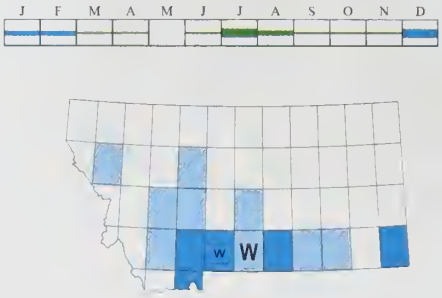
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch

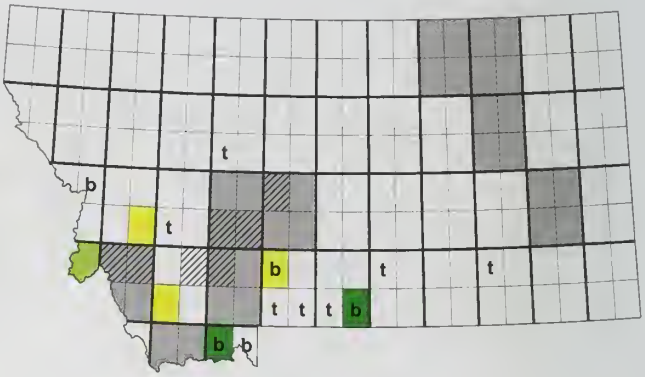
Leucosticte tephrocotis

2003-2011 = 136 SOC

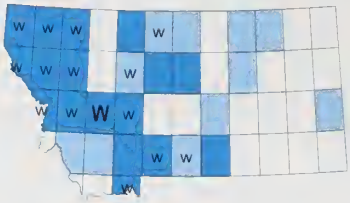


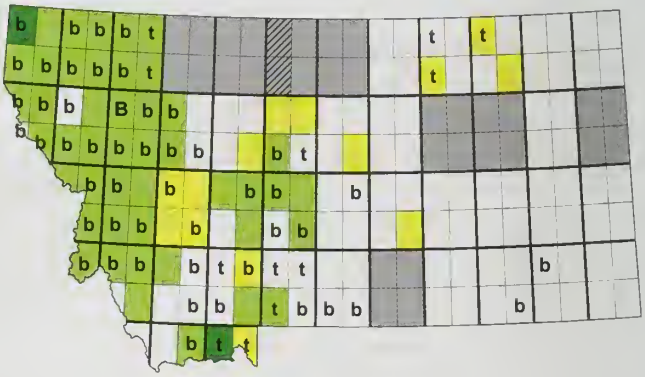
Black Rosy-Finch
Leucosticte atrata
2003-2011 = 23 SOC



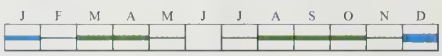


Pine Grosbeak
Pinicola enucleator
2003-2011 = 364





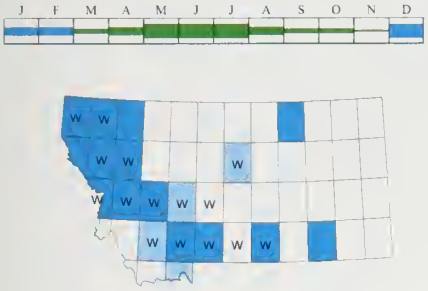
Purple Finch
Carpodacus purpureus
2003-2011 = 28

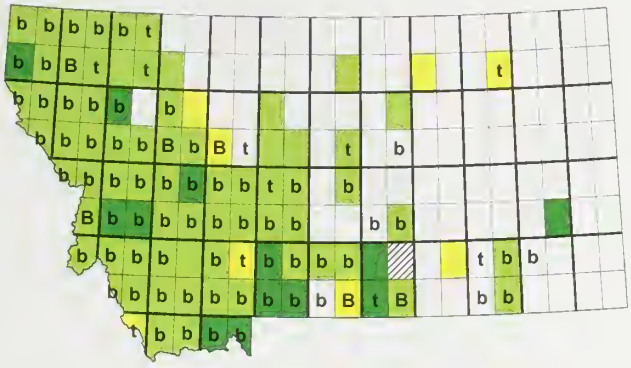


Cassin's Finch

Carpodacus cassinii

2003-2011 = 794 SOC

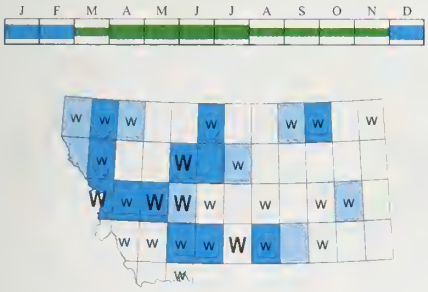


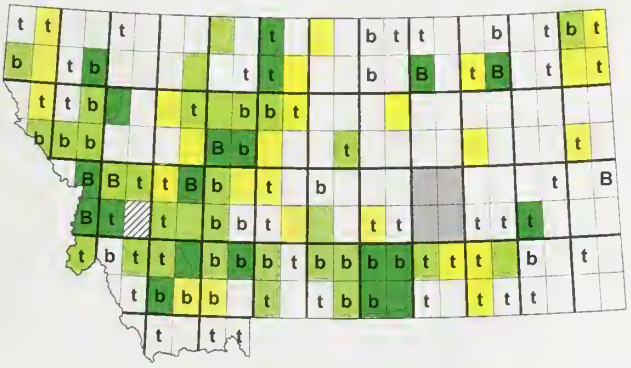


House Finch

Carpodacus mexicanus

2003-2011 = 1213

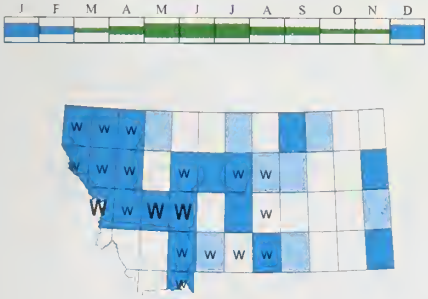


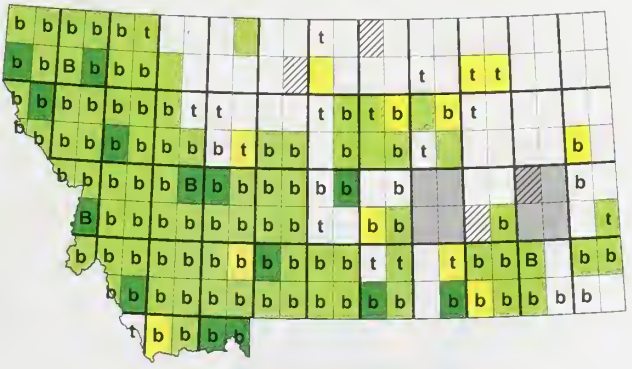


Red Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

2003-2011 = 2688

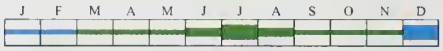


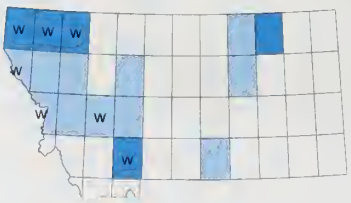


White-winged Crossbill

Loxia leucoptera

2003-2011 = 84 SI

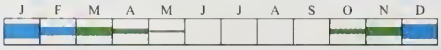




Common Redpoll

Acanthis flammea

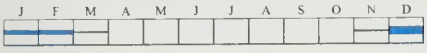
2003-2011 = 190

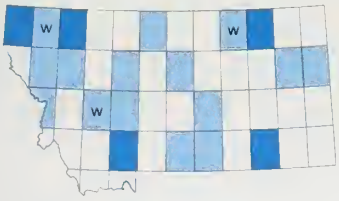


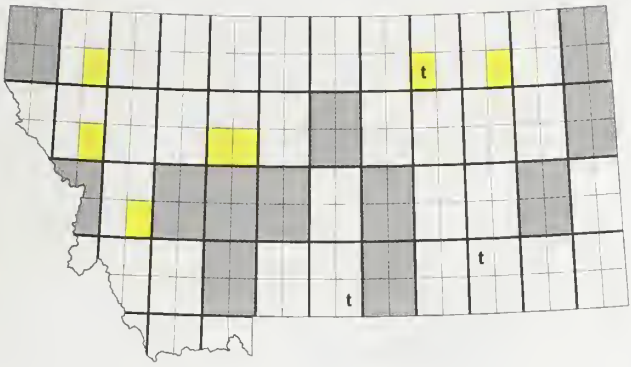
Hoary Redpoll

Acanthis hornemanni

2003-2011 = 11



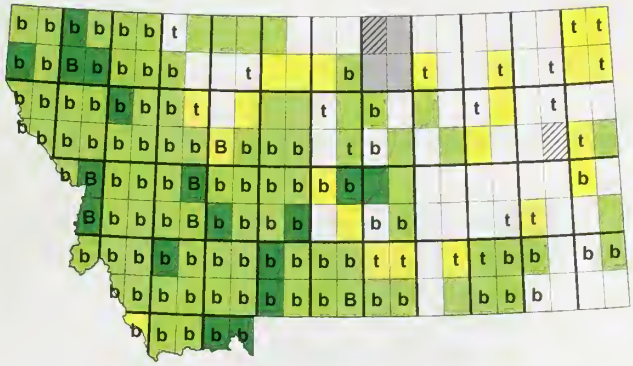




Pine Siskin

Spinus pinus

2003-2011 = 5533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B b b b b B b b b b
b b
t t
b b b b b b b b b b b t t
t t b b
b b
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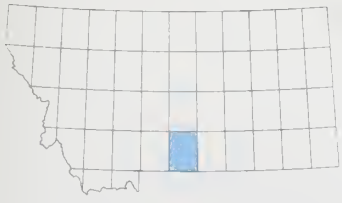
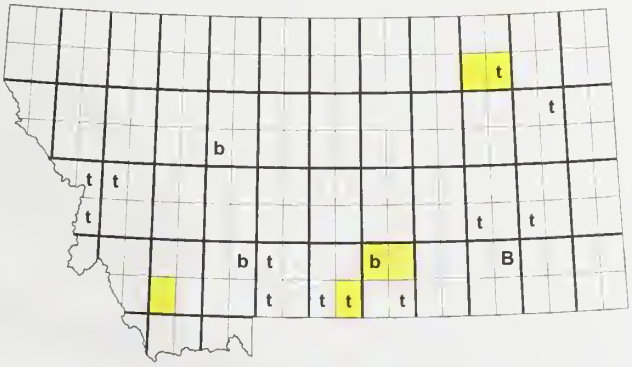
b b b
b b b b b

Lesser Goldfinch

Spinus psaltria

2003-2011 = 22

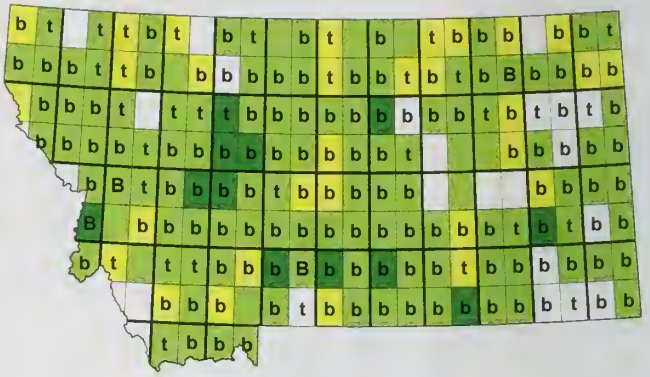




American Goldfinch

Spinus tristis

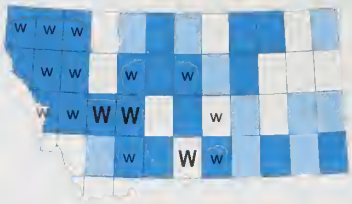
2003-2011 = 2476

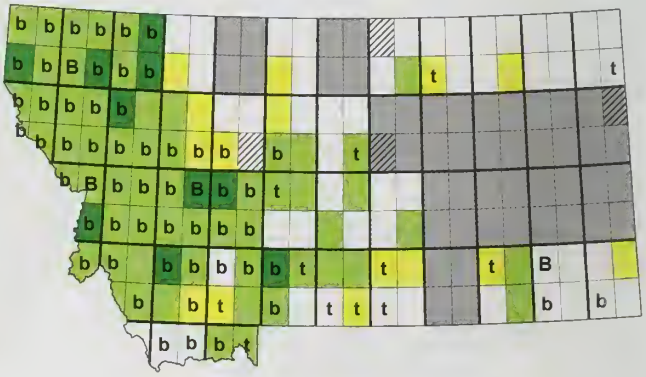


Evening Grosbeak

Coccothraustes vespertinus

2003-2011 = 797 SOC





House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

2003-2011 = 1333

Appendix A. Submission of Bird Records

This section explains how to submit records to the Montana Bird Distribution (MBD) database, the information required for all observations, and an explanation of the extra information needed for Rare Birds.

How to Submit Records

The MBD Partnership strives to make numerous data-entry options available to promote the stewardship of birds and their habitats in Montana. Observation records entered via any of the routes below will eventually get into the Montana Bird Distribution database. Although there are pluses and minuses to each of these methods, there is no "best way" to submit records. Most of these methods can be found at the Montana Natural Heritage Program's website at: http://mtnhp.org/observations.asp.

Online Record Submission Options:

- **Simple Web-based Animal Observation Form:** http://mtnhp.org/observationform/. This simple web-based data entry tool is available for general entry of bird sightings. This tool can be used from any computer, with slower speed internet connections, and on all web browsers.

- **Natural Heritage:** *MapViewer* http://mtnhp.org/mapviewer/ and *Natural Heritage Tracker* http://mtnhp.org/tracker/. Both of these web applications can be used to view bird records via a dynamic map interface. Both applications also allow the user to see detailed information associated with individual records. The **Natural Heritage MapViewer** is based on newer technology, compatible with PCs and Macintosh computers, accessible from all web browsers, and compatible with slower internet connections. This application also allows users to generate bird lists for each QQLL. Observations can be entered in MapViewer under the "Generalized Observation" task option by clicking on the "Add an Animal Observation" link under the Tools menu. The **Natural Heritage Tracker** is based on older technology, is only compatible with PC computers and Internet Explorer, and requires a high speed internet connection; this application is intended to be phased out over the next few years. Observations can be added under the "Add Animal Observation" tab.

- **eBird:** https://ebird.org. Users can enter bird data through eBird, a cooperative project between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. eBird is an internet-based checklist program that allows birders to post sightings, keep track of their bird lists, manage their personal records, and explore bird observations being reported by other birders. It also has a variety of informative reports available. eBird data will be incorporated into the MBD database at approximately annual intervals.

The eBird and MBD databases capture similar information. However, there are some important points to consider on whether one should be using eBird or entering observations into the MBD database:

a. Whichever system is used, observations will be more valuable if precise coordinates or reference to a prominent map feature are given, in addition to information on the observed breeding status and relevant comments on what the bird was doing and what habitats it was using.

b. The MBD database is not meant for (1) reporting daily or multiple entries of backyard birds or (2) field trip bird lists within a season. Instead, if using the MBD database, this information should be collapsed to the highest status (B, b, t, W, w) within the season observed. If an observer is interested in entering detailed entries for backyard or local trips then eBird is the better database to use.

c. The MBD database strives to document only a single record of a particular bird at a particular location on a particular day. This goal is especially important for "rare" species. If multiple people within a bird outing or group want to submit observations toward their personal bird list, eBird is the more appropriate venue.

d. The MBD database is focused on gathering observations that include exact location information. Precise location information is especially important for breeding records because this information is commonly used in management and conservation efforts. For breeding observations to influence conservation projects and activities, it is especially important to precisely map each breeding bird record (i.e., do not generalize the location in a large geographic area such as "Fort Peck Lake"; instead, document where on Fort Peck Lake the bird was observed). Similarly, lists of birds for large areas - such as a county, National Park, or Wildlife Refuge - would be more appropriately entered into eBird.

Other Submission Options:

- **MBD Sighting Excel Spreadsheet:** http://mtnhp.org/docs/MBD_Sighting_Form.xls. This form can be downloaded from the Natural Heritage Program website; it is the preferred method for receiving large numbers of bird observation records. Submissions using this format can be added to the main database easily.

- **Adopt a QQLL Spreadsheet:** http://www.mtaudubon.org/birds/distributionQQLL. A simple Excel spreadsheet is available for individuals who want to focus their observations to a specific QQLL. Developed as part of an effort to have better coverage of bird records for local areas across the state, this form should be submitted to Montana Audubon.

- **Submit written records:** In order to keep data entry costs and errors at a minimum, we prefer that observers enter their own records using one of the record submission options listed above. However, if an observer selects to submit handwritten records, copies of the form found in Appendix B can be filled in and mailed to: Montana Bird Distribution, Montana Audubon, P. O. Box 595 Helena, MT 59624.

Information Required for All Sightings

The MBD database strives to include only records that are accurate and complete. To be included in the database, every record submitted must have the following information:

- **BIRD SPECIES** (either common or scientific name). Only include observations where the species identification is certain. Comments on numbers of individuals observed, behavior, and habitat are encouraged, but are not required.

- **DATE** of observation. Dates are critical for knowing when birds arrive, breed, overwinter, or migrate through Montana. They also give us a tool for verifying records. For example, a breeding record for a warbler in March would not be accepted without substantial documentation. Consequently, records without dates are not accepted. Date ranges may

be submitted for a list of bird species observed at one locality over time (e.g., a backyard bird list for the summer, or a bird list for a QQLL over a weekend of birding).

- **LOCATION** of observation. A locality description is required (i.e., southeast corner of Wild Horse Lake; 2.0 km northwest of Ear Mountain at headwaters of South Fork Willow Creek; Hwy 287 at Badger Pass; Pumpkin Creek 400 meters west of Volborg; QQLL 19A1; etc.). For finer resolution in determining locations or QQLL boundaries, please refer to the maps found at the back of this book; U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or U.S. Geological Survey maps; or the *Montana Atlas and Gazetteer* (DeLorme 2011). We encourage the use of map coordinates (preferably latitude and longitude in decimal degrees), but they are not required.

- **STATUS: B, b, t, W, w** (see definitions on page 10 and 11). Observations submitted with a status of "**B**" or "**W**" must be accompanied by comments documenting why the designation was used. For backyard bird lists or for areas where an observer documents birds repeatedly during a season, we request submission of only the highest status observed during that season ("B" higher than "b" higher than "t" and "W" higher than "w").

- **OBSERVER NAME** and **CONTACT INFORMATION**. This information allows the observation to be credited to the observer and allows the observer to be contacted should more information be needed.

Because of the volume of data being managed and the limited time available for scrutiny of individual submissions, efforts to provide complete and accurate information are *greatly* appreciated!

Reporting Rare Birds

The Montana Bird Records Committee (MBRC) was established in 1991 to review rare and unusual bird sightings. For an officially "Rare" species, a written report must be reviewed and accepted by the MBRC before the record can be entered into the MBD database and included in this publication. MBRC membership, bylaws, and minutes can be found at http://mtaudubon.org/birds/report.html.

As of 2012, there were 104 species on the Official State Bird List scarce enough (generally fewer than 20 records) to require a Rare Bird Report be submitted for any sighting. There are notable location (QLL) exceptions for a small number of additional species (Appendix C). Species not previously documented in the state also need documentation. These birds will be added to the State List (Appendix M) only if the MBRC accepts written accounts from two independent observers, or if the record is verified by a photograph or specimen.

For individuals submitting a rare bird sighting, the observer should describe only what was actually witnessed. Seldom is it possible to observe all details of a bird's appearance or behavior. The report should be completed as soon as possible following the observation, while details are fresh. Although the main emphasis should focus on describing the species under consideration, it is also important to note how similar species were eliminated. Photographs assist greatly in determining species identification and should be included with the report whenever possible.

The **Rare Bird Report Form** is available in Appendix D and can be downloaded at http://mtaudubon.org/birds/report.html. Reports should be sent electronically (preferred) to the email link provided on the MBRC website, or printed and mailed to: Montana Bird Distribution, Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624.

Bird Observation Record Sheet

Observations can also be entered online. See: http://mtnhp.org/observations.asp.

Observer_____ Contact Information: _____

Common Name	Status (B, b, t, W, or w)*	Date	QQLL	Location (more specific info - including written description; gps location; Township, Range & Section; etc.)	*Comments: explain Status: B, b, t, W, or w. Comments required for "B" (direct evidence of breeding) and "W" (overwintering). Comments encouraged for "b" (indirect evidence of breeding).

Send this form to: MBD – Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624

Appendix C. Rare Birds

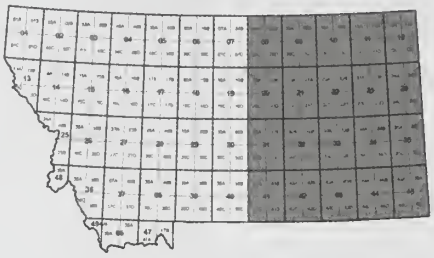
The list below identifies 104 species rare enough in Montana to require full documentation of any reported observations in the state. A species is generally considered rare if it has been recorded fewer than 20 times in the state. Most of the species on this list have been reported less than 20 times in the state and are considered rare throughout Montana (R1); a few species are regionally rare within the state (R2); and one species, Yellow-billed Cuckoo (R3), is considered rare due to its apparent decline in the state. Although more than 20 observations have been recorded, the infrequent documentation of this species over the past twenty five years warrants continued status.

The Montana Bird Records Committee reviews reports of observations of rare species before their inclusion in *Montana Bird Distribution*. Any species not previously seen in the state will only be added to the state list if the committee accepts independent documentation from two or more skilled observers, or if verified by a photograph or specimen.

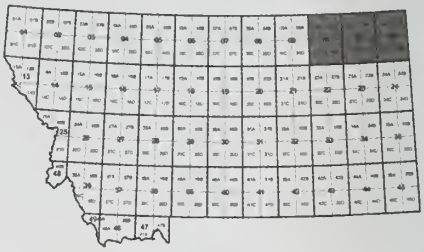
The following species are considered rare throughout Montana unless otherwise marked (R2).

Brant
Cackling Goose R2
Garganey
Tufted Duck
Black Scoter
Willow Ptarmigan
Greater Prairie-Chicken
Red-throated Loon
Yellow-billed Loon
Manx Shearwater
Wood Stork
Least Bittern
Little Blue Heron
Green Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Glossy Ibis
White-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Red-shouldered Hawk
Crested Caracara
Yellow Rail R2
Common Gallinule
Snowy Plover
Black Turnstone
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Curlew Sandpiper
American Woodcock
Red Phalarope
Black-legged Kittiwake
Little Gull
Ross's Gull
Laughing Gull
Iceland Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Glaucous-winged Gull R2
Great Black-backed Gull
Arctic Tern
Pomarine Jaeger
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Long-billed Murrelet
Ancient Murrelet
White-winged Dove
Inca Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo R3
Whip-poor-will
Ruby-throated Hummingbird R2
Anna's Hummingbird R2
Costa's Hummingbird
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker R2
White-headed Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher R2
Gray Flycatcher R2
Eastern Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Great Crested Flycatcher
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo R2
Philadelphia Vireo R2
Western Scrub-Jay
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren R2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher R2
Gray-cheeked Thrush R2
Wood Thrush
Curve-billed Thrasher
Siberian Accentor
Smith's Longspur
Golden-winged Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Kentucky Warbler
Hooded Warbler
Northern Parula
Bay-breasted Warbler R2
Blackburnian Warbler R2
Pine Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler R2
Painted Redstart
Eastern Towhee
Black-throated Sparrow
Sage Sparrow R2
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Pyrrhuloxia
Blue Grosbeak R2
Painted Bunting
Eastern Meadowlark
Great-tailed Grackle
Hooded Oriole
Brambling

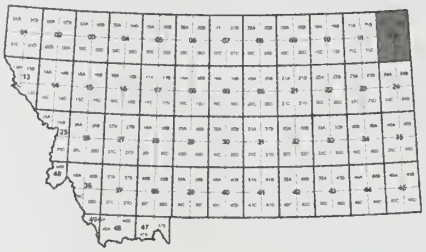
The gray shading on the maps below indicate where no Rare Bird Report Form is necessary for observations of R2 species.



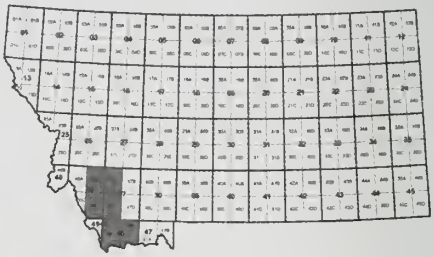
Cackling Goose



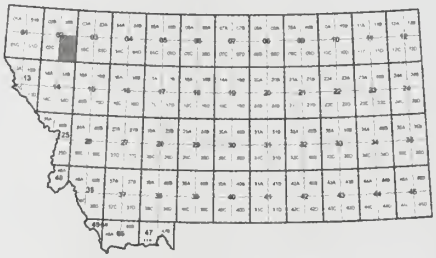
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Bay-breasted Warbler



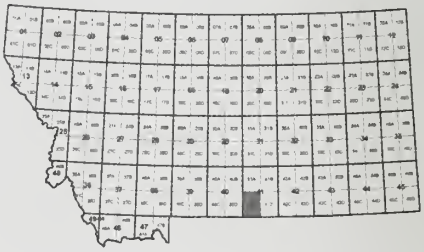
Yellow Rail, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Sedge Wren



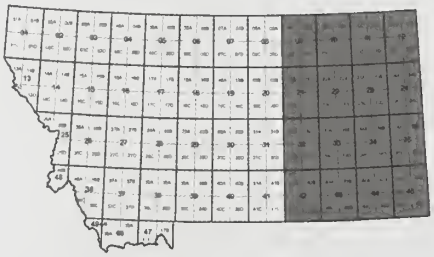
Gray Flycatcher



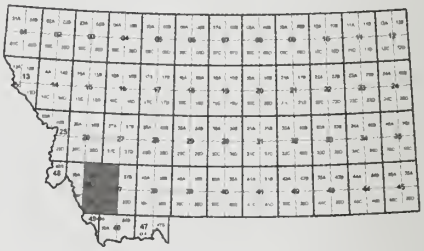
Glaucous-winged Gull



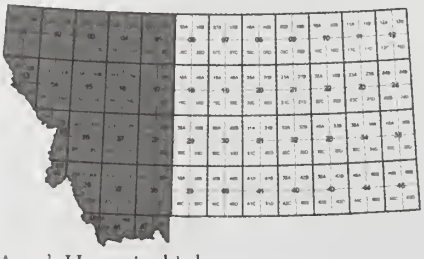
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



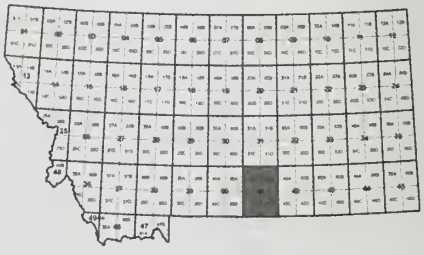
Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler



Sage Sparrow



Anna's Hummingbird



Blue Grosbeak

Appendix D. Montana Rare Bird Report Form

MONTANA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

Species:

Date:

Observer:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:

Photo taken / enclosed?:

Specimen taken?:

Other observers:

QLL:

Status (B, b, W, w, t):

Nearest town:

Specific location:

Latitude / Longitude:

Describe the habitat:

Plumage:

Sex / age:

Quality and direction of light (if applicable):

Optics used:

Distance from bird:

Duration of observation:

Previous experience with species:

This report was written (from memory, field notes, at time of sighting, etc.):

Notes:

Describe the bird. Record only field marks and behaviors you actually saw. State size (compared with other nearby known or common birds). Record relevant information such as color, body shape, bill, legs, voice, behavior, number of individuals, sex, etc.:

Discus how similar species were eliminated:

This document can be found online at http://mtaudubon.org/birds/report.html
Send electronically to mtaudubon@mtadubon.org or by mail to Montana Bird Records Committee, Montana Audubon, P.O. Box 595, Helena, MT 59624 USA.

Appendix E. Threatened (T), Endangered (E), Candidate (C), other Species of Concern (SOC), and Species of Interest (SI)

Listed below are species identified as Animal Species of Concern by the Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. They include (1) species federally listed under the Endangered Species Act as Endangered, Threatened, or Candidates for federal listing, and (2) U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species, Bureau of Land Management Special Status Species, or other Species of Concern as identified by the Montana Animal Species of Concern Committee. A third category, termed Special Interest, includes species for which supplemental information is requested; generally, these are species with unique breeding habits that warrant further study, whose status and distribution are poorly known in Montana, or have special protection under federal law. **These lists are subject to change.** For current information, contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, or Montana Natural Heritage Program (http://mtnhp.org).

Birds listed in this appendix are identified in this publication by a **Status code** below their names on the pages with their associated maps: Threatened (T), Endangered (E), Candidate (C), other Species of Concern (SOC), and Special Interest (SI) species.

The precise location for any record of species on these lists is particularly important. Therefore, a detailed description of location, habitat, number of individuals, and behavior should accompany reports for all of the birds in this appendix, and is particularly important for reporting evidence of nesting. Observations can be entered online at the Montana Natural Heritage Program website or reported on the form found in Appendix B and submitted by mail to the Montana Natural Heritage Program, P. O. Box 201800, 1515 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, MT 59620-1800.

Federally Listed Species of Concern

Greater Sage-Grouse - Candidate
Whooping Crane - Endangered
Least Tern - Endangered
Piping Plover -Threatened
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - Candidate
(west of Continental Divide)
Sprague's Pipit - Candidate

Other Species of Concern

Trumpeter Swan
Harlequin Duck
White-tailed Ptarmigan
Sharp-tailed Grouse
Common Loon
Horned Grebe
Clark's Grebe
American White Pelican
American Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
White-faced Ibis
Northern Goshawk
Ferruginous Hawk
Golden Eagle
Peregrine Falcon
Yellow Rail
Mountain Plover
Black-necked Stilt
Long-billed Curlew
Franklin's Gull
Caspian Tern
Black Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Black-billed Cuckoo
Flammulated Owl
Burrowing Owl
Northern Hawk Owl
Great Gray Owl
Black Swift
Lewis's Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Black-backed Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Alder Flycatcher
Loggerhead Shrike
Pinyon Jay
Clark's Nutcracker

Boreal Chickadee
Brown Creeper
Pacific Wren
Sedge Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Veery
Varied Thrush
Sage Thrasher
Chestnut-collared Longspur
McCown's Longspur
Green-tailed Towhee
Brewer's Sparrow
Sage Sparrow
Baird's Sparrow
Le Conte's Sparrow
Nelson's Sparrow
Bobolink
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
Black Rosy-Finch
Cassin's Finch
Evening Grosbeak

Species of Interest (SI)

Eared Grebe
Barrow's Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Bald Eagle
Virginia Rail
Short-eared Owl
Western Screech-Owl
Eastern Screech-Owl
Boreal Owl
Common Poorwill
Chimney Swift
Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Rufous Hummingbird
Cassin's Kingbird
Plumbeous Vireo
Eastern Bluebird
Ovenbird
Black-and-white Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Dickcissel
White-winged Crossbill

Appendix F. Subspecies

As more research and genetic evidence emerges, the potential for taxonomic splits of one or more of the species listed in this Appendix becomes likely. If any of these subspecies are elevated to species status in the future, observations including information on breeding habits and location of these birds will become necessary. This situation can be illustrated through the examples of the Winter Wren and the Whip-poor-will, two recent taxonomic splits with relevance in Montana. The Winter Wren was recently split into three species (Eurasian Wren, Winter Wren, and Pacific Wren); Montana has both North American species. The Winter Wren is a rare migrant to the eastern part of the state, whereas the Pacific Wren is a regular breeder and year-round resident in the western half of the state. Separating existing records for this species was relatively easy, due to habitat comments and their apparent disjunct ranges. Conversely, the Whip-poor-will, a rare bird in Montana, was split into two species: Eastern Whip-poor-will and Mexican Whip-poor-will. Montana's only documented observation of this species did not contain enough information to determine which of the newly named species was observed (which is why the "lumped" name Whip-poor-will, *Caprimulgus* sp., occurs in this edition).

Where information is available, maps displaying both species and subspecies distribution for the birds listed in this Appendix are included in this publication. Bird distribution maps were created for each subspecies to encourage birdwatchers to submit future records at this taxonomic level. No maps appear for the three subspecies of Fox Sparrow due to a lack of data. However, they may be included in future editions.

Species for which information is requested at the subspecies, race, or form level:

Green-winged Teal
- Eurasian Green-winged Teal

Northern Flicker
- Red-shafted Flicker
- Yellow-shafted Flicker

Brewer's Sparrow
- Timberline Sparrow

Fox Sparrow
- Sooty (Pacific) Fox Sparrow
- Slate-colored (Interior West) Fox Sparrow
- Red (Taiga) Fox Sparrow

Dark-eyed Junco
- Slate-colored Junco
- Oregon (Montana) Junco
- Pink-sided Junco
- White-winged Junco
- Gray-headed Junco

Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Myrtle Warbler
- Audubon's Warbler

Appendix G. Introduced Species

The following species are not native to Montana and were either introduced into or colonized the state on their own after being introduced elsewhere in North America. The Wild Turkey is the only species on the following list native to other regions of the continent. Because these species have bred in the wild and persist in Montana, they are included on the official list of birds for the state. Distribution maps for these species appear in this book. We stress that the introduction of new bird species is regulated in Montana because it may pose a threat to native wildlife, human health, and/or public safety.

Mute Swan	**Ring-necked Pheasant**	**Eurasian Collared-Dove**
Chukar	**Wild Turkey**	**European Starling**
Gray Partridge	**Rock Pigeon**	**House Sparrow**

The **Cattle Egret** is not identified as introduced in Montana as its presence in North America is considered a natural expansion of its native range. Originally from subtropical and tropical Africa and Asia, the Cattle Egret colonized northeastern South America in the late 1870's. It arrived in the United States by the early 1940's, and was first documented in Montana in May 1974 in the Bitterroot Valley (QLL 25D).

Individuals of the following species are not native to Montana but, at times, do occur in the state. Their initial presence resulted from the release and/or escape of captive-raised birds; in some cases these releases are ongoing. Some may breed in the wild and survive for multiple years (e.g., California Quail), but they have not maintained wild populations long enough to conclude that they persist naturally in the state. Therefore, they do not appear on the official list of birds of Montana, and maps on their distribution do not appear in this book.

California Quail	**Northern Bobwhite**	**Ringed Turtle-Dove**

The Northern Bobwhite appeared in previous editions of *Montana Bird Distribution*, but no maps for this species were included in the 6th edition nor in this edition. Northern Bobwhites were widely transplanted in Montana during the latter part of the 19th century and became established for some time. All of these birds died out many years ago, and we believe all recent records are from birds released or escaped from captivity. We are not aware of a single case where escaped bobwhites have persisted for the 10 years regarded as minimal for an established occurrence (Wright 1996).

The status of California Quail in Montana has been a point of on-going debate. Their continued and increasing presence in parts of the state, especially the Bitterroot Valley, has raised the question of whether this species should be added to the official list of Montana birds. Although many observers have documented this species successfully breeding, as well as persisting through wintering months (Christmas Bird Count data), the continued release of captive birds into the region prevents any quantitative assessment of their status. The Montana Bird Records Committee, the organization responsible for the official checklist of birds of Montana, voted in 2011 against adding the California Quail to the official state bird list. The Committee will continue to monitor the status of the California Quail in the state through collection of relevant observations, annual datasets, and research efforts.

Appendix H. Hypothetical Records

All reports of species new to Montana must be reviewed and accepted by the Montana Bird Records Committee (MBRC) in order to be included in the MBD database. The MBRC requires at least one of the following for approval of first state records: a specimen, a definitive photograph, or independent documentation by two or more skilled observers.

"Hypothetical records" are for observations of species for which we have convincing reports in Montana, but which have not been added to the official state list by MBRC or by previous compilers of *Montana Bird Distribution* because of specific, identified reasons. The species listed below are placed on the hypothetical records list for the reasons noted. Other species have been reported, but details were insufficient to warrant inclusion here.

Common Crane (*Grus grus*): QLL 12B, 1999. Single-observer sighting with convincing details.

Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*): QLL 09C, 2001. Single-observer sighting with convincing details.

Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*): QLL 27B, 1984. Single-observer sighting with convincing details.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*): QLL 24B, 1995 and QLL 12B, 2007. Both observations with convincing details, but both were single-observer sightings.

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*): QLL 03A, 1962. Carried over from previous editions. Original observer interviewed by P.D. Skaar in 1971, resulting in Skaar's placement of species on hypothetical list. Information insufficient for review under current criteria established by the MBRC.

Virginia's Warbler (*Oreothlypis virginiae*): QLL 41C, 2005. Single-observer sighting with convincing details.

Hermit Warbler (*Setophaga occidentalis*): LL 38, 2005. Convincing details provided, but hybrid origin could not be ruled out.

Cassin's Sparrow (*Peucaea cassinii*): QLL 29C, 1999. Sight record with convincing details, but independent documentation from two observers absent.

Since the 6th edition of *Montana Bird Distribution* was published, the following species have been removed from the hypothetical list and placed on the official list:

Glossy Ibis: QLL 16B, 05/2002; first documented state record.

Iceland Gull: QLL 17B, 12/2005; first documented state record.

Long-billed Murrelet: 15C, 06/1985; accepted by Wright (1997). Previously presented as Marbled Murrelet. Record reviewed and accepted by MBRC as Long-billed Murrelet.

Blue-winged Warbler: QLL 09C, 05/2006; first documented state record.

Painted Bunting: QLL 41A, 12/1999; report submitted and accepted by MBRC in 2003.

Appendix I. Extinct Species

The Passenger Pigeon is the only species recorded in Montana known to be extinct. The last reported specimen of this species was a "young" bird collected on 23 August 1874 near Waterton Lake in Glacier National Park (Latilong 4) by Elliott Coues. This specimen is still in the rare bird display at the U.S. National Museum. Grinnell (1876) reported "small companies in July [1875] along the Missouri River bottom, where it was doubtless breeding" between the mouth of Yellowstone River and Carroll (townsite 38 miles above mouth of Musselshell River) on the Missouri River. Earlier records showed the Passenger Pigeon inhabiting latilongs 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 17, 24, 26, and 41.

Appendix J. A Summary of Bird Record Information by Latilong

The following maps (Figure 3 and 4) use the latilong system to summarize the information stored in the Montana Bird Distribution database in two different ways. Both maps generally reflect bird locations, but they also reflect where our contributors are watching birds and submitting records.

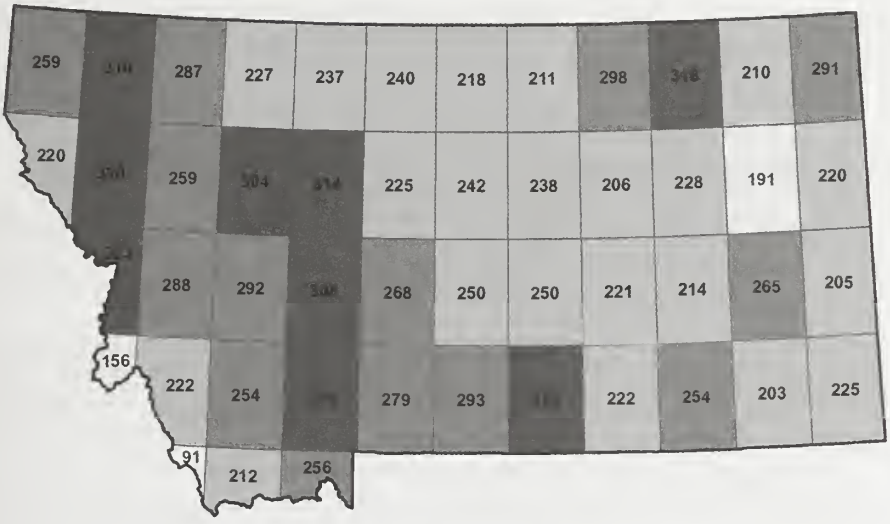


Figure 3. Species Richness by Latilong. The map shows the total number of bird species that have been reported in each latilong. Shading represents general species richness for each latilong; the center number is the total number of species recorded in that latilong (out of the statewide total of 427).

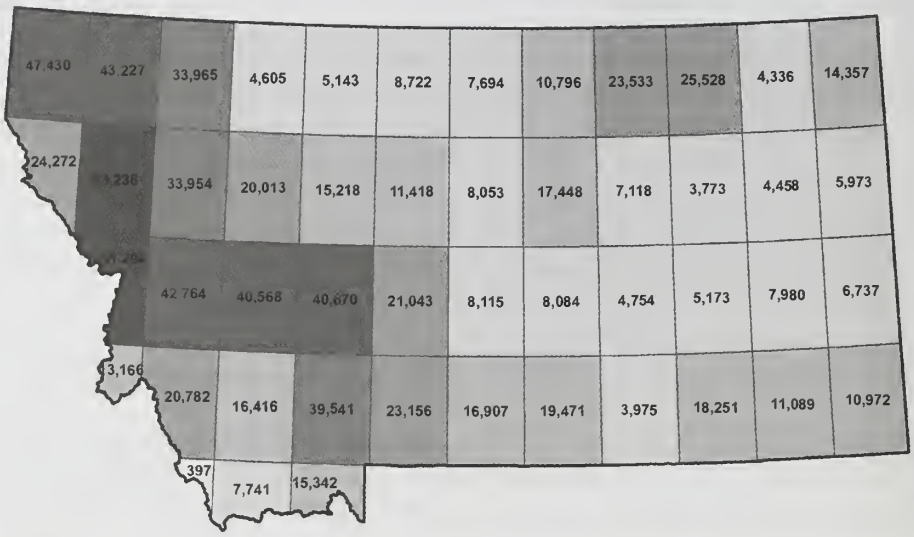


Figure 4. Total Records by Latilong. The map shows the total number of bird records for all species reported for each latilong. Shading represents general observation numbers reported for each latilong; the center number is the total number of records for that latilong. This figure can alert birders to areas of the state that are poorly documented.

Appendix K. Why Bird Distribution Information is Important

Bird records in the MBD database directly help bird conservation in Montana. Submission of current bird observations ensures that Montana continues to have reliable, objective information about the status and distribution of bird species. This information has many uses, including:

Informing Resource Development Decisions. Resource managers and developers benefit significantly from information on sensitive bird species and their habitats. This information is used by the private and public sectors for planning timber sales, subdivisions, utility and pipeline corridors, weed control efforts, wind farm siting, oil and gas extraction, mines, highway construction, and more. Providing easy access to this information saves untold dollars, reduces conflicts, and decreases delays in decision-making. Knowing where and when sensitive species are present helps developers avoid needless impacts and protect habitat in order to maintain healthy bird populations.

Identifying Species of Concern. Keeping accurate records in the MBD database on the state's most vulnerable bird species aids resource managers, decision-makers, conservationists, and businesses. This information is used by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Montana Natural Heritage Program to maintain the Montana Animal Species of Concern list. This list contains native Montana animals that are considered to be "at risk" due to declining population trends, threats to their habitats, and/or restricted distribution (Table 1). This list also identifies animals for which additional data are needed before an accurate status assessment can be made. As of April 2012, there were 66 bird Species of Concern.

Assisting with Stewardship of Species of Concern. Understanding our vulnerable species and their habitats also improves the success of resource management and conservation efforts. Although designation as a Species of Concern (Appendix E) provides no regulatory protection, these designations allow resource managers and decision-makers to make proactive decisions regarding species conservation and data collection priorities. Keeping records on the status of species in one location provides everyone

with a single well recognized and comprehensive source of this information. It also can help with stewardship efforts to avoid additional declines in bird populations and/or the listing/de-listing of species under the Endangered Species Act.

Monitoring Distribution Trends Over Time. Reported bird observations are extremely important to understanding the distribution and status of individual species over time. For example, these data have allowed us to track the expansion of Eurasian Collared-Doves, the potential expansion of species like the Lesser Goldfinch, or potential range contractions in Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos. As examples, maps for the Eurasian Collared Dove (Figure 5) and Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Figure 6) are provided.

Figure 5. Map showing the expansion of Eurasian Collared-Dove distribution in the state. The first Montana record for this species occurred in July 1997; this species is now observed throughout the state and breeding has also been documented.

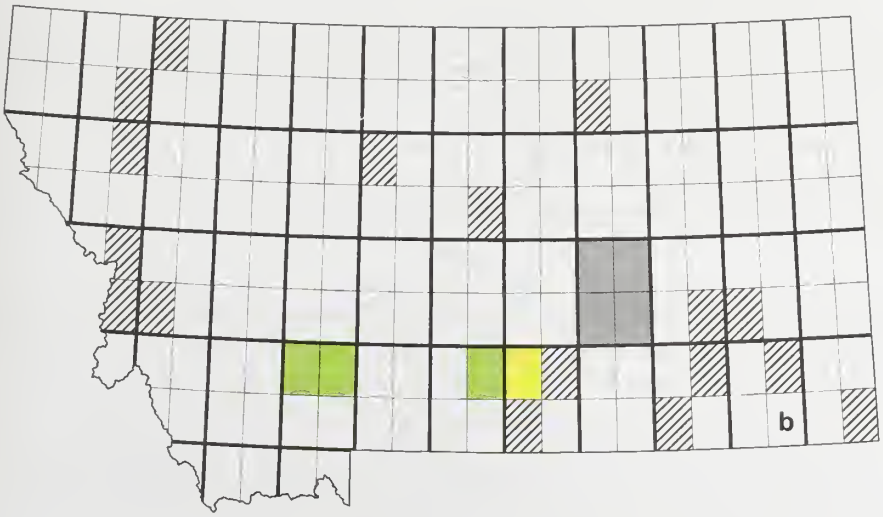


Figure 6. Map showing potential contraction of Yellow-billed Cuckoo distribution in the state. These birds were reported annually in the 1980's; between 2002 and 2012, the only record reported occurred in July 2011.

Documenting Changes in Migration Patterns Over Time. Reporting spring and fall arrival dates for migratory birds, as well as overwintering records, will help Montanans understand how species are responding to climate change. This information can then be used to assist with long-term conservation efforts of our bird species in a warming world.

Identifying Important Habitats for Regional Planning. Bird records with detailed habitat information and/or those that are precisely mapped can be used to create models that predict habitat suitability for species. As an example, the map in Figure 7 predicts where the best habitat for Sprague's Pipit can be found in the state. Habitat maps such as this are being used by a variety of resource management agencies in regional planning efforts for the benefit of bird Species of Concern.

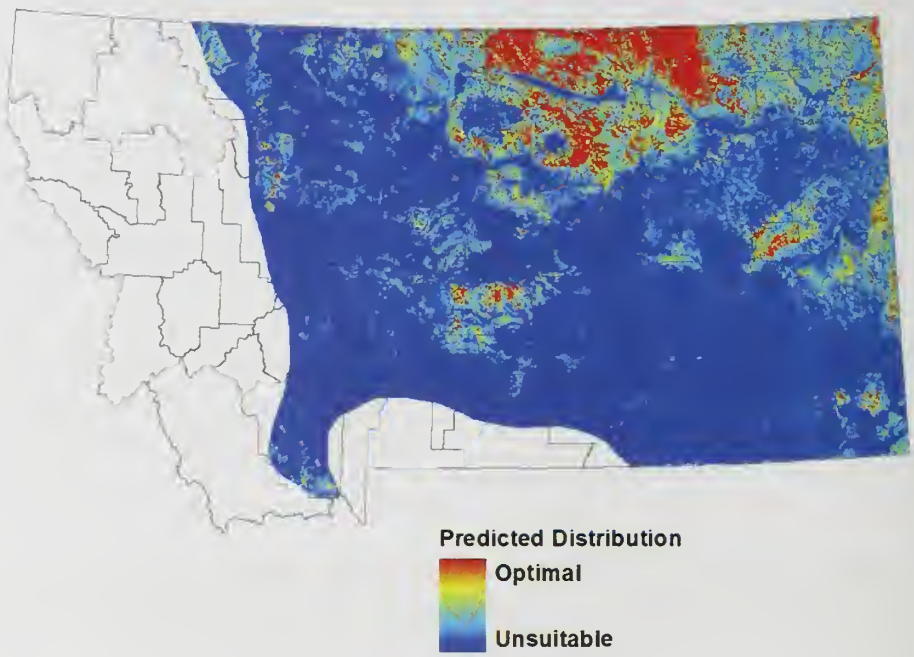


Figure 7. Predicted habitat suitability map for Sprague's Pipit.

Providing Natural History Information on Birds to the Public. The Montana Field Guide summarizes the biology, distribution, status, habitat use, and other natural history information for Montana's birds, as well as other animals, plants, and habitat types. This web-based resource is used by natural resource professionals, K-12 and university students, the general public from throughout Montana, and around the world. The Montana Field Guide is a cooperative project between the Montana Natural Heritage Program and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and can be found at http://fieldguide.mt.gov/.

Providing Important Bird Information for Habitat Protection Efforts. Table 1 classifies Montana birds by optimal bird habitat, noting the number of Species of Concern found in each major habitat type. Derived from the MBD database, this information helps provide the basis for management decisions at the local and state level. Understanding habitat and species associations can aid efforts to protect habitats representing a disproportionate amount of critical habitat for Montana's bird species. For example, while wetland and riparian habitats make up approximately 4% of Montana's land base; they provide optimal habitat for 102 (39%) of the state's breeding birds, 51 (72%) of the state's pass-through migrants, and 31 (49%) of the state's Species of Concern.

Table 1. Optimal habitats for Montana's 336 bird species that are known to breed, migrate through, or overwinter in the state. Species of Concern are identified. Ninety one rare species, which have been seen in Montana fewer than 20 times, are excluded from this table.

Optimal Habitat Type	Total Birds	Breeding Birds (Percent)	Migrant Birds	Species of Concern (SOC) (Percent)	Percent SOC in this habitat	Species of Concern (SOC). NOTE: underlined/bolded birds are threatened (T), endangered (E), or candidate (C) species under the Endangered Species Act.
Alpine	4	3 (1.2%)	1	3 (4.5%)	75.0%	White-tailed Ptarmigan, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Black Rosy-Finch
Cliff	5	5 (1.9%)	0	1 (1.5%)	20.0%	Peregrine Falcon
Grasslands	29	29 (11.2%)		9 (13.6%)	31.0%	Golden Eagle, Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Burrowing Owl, **Sprague's Pipit (C)**, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Baird's Sparrow, Bobolink
Forest	85	73 (28.1%)	13	14 (21.2%)	16.5%	Northern Goshawk, Flammulated Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Boreal Chickadee, Brown Creeper, Pacific Wren, Varied Thrush, Cassin's Finch, Evening Grosbeak
Shrub and forest	12	8 (3.1%)	4	1 (1.5%)	8.3%	Green-tailed Towhee
Sagebrush/ shrub	21	18 (6.9%)	3	8 (12.1%)	38.1%	**Greater Sage-Grouse (C)**, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Ferruginous Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Sparrow
Wetland/ riparian	153	102 (39.2%)	51	30 (45.5%)	19.6%	Trumpeter Swan, Harlequin Duck, Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Yellow Rail, **Whooping Crane** (E), **Piping Plover** (T), Black-necked Stilt, Franklin's Gull, **Least Tern** (E), Caspian Tern, Black Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** (C), Black-billed Cuckoo, Black Swift, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Alder Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Veery, LeConte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow
Shrub and riparian	2	2 (0.8%)			0%	
Generalists	15	13 (5.0%)	2		0%	
Open habitat	6	5 (1.9%)	3		0%	
Woody draws	4	2 (0.8%)			0%	
TOTAL	336	260	77	66		

Appendix L. Contributors to this Edition

More than 10,000 records

Steve Gniadek, Paul Hendricks, Harriet Marble, and Gary Swant

From 5000 to 9999 records

Charles Carlson, Coburn L. Currier, Georgia Frazier, Brett Gullett, Wayne Harper, Denver Holt, Susan Lenard, Mike Lesnik, David Lockman, Chris Paige, Dwain Prellwitz, Susan Reel, and Jim Sparks

1000 to 4999 records

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500 to 999 records

Dan Bachen, Ellen Baker, Jason Bivens, Edward Boyd, Bob Bramblett, James Brown, Durel Carstensen, Rab Cummings, David DeSante, Ronan Donovan, Debra Elwood, David Ely, Robert Eng, Gina Gahagan, Stephanie Gillin, John Gobeille, Pat Grantham, Kristina Gunderson, Andrew Guttenberg, Nick Hajdukovich, Philip Henson, Elizabeth Hill, Judy Hoy, Joe Johnson, Jon King, Frederick Klasner, Kathleen Knaphus, Craig Knowles, Marisa Lipsey, Lisa Lister, Bill Long, Robert Lubbers, Curtis Lund, Terry McEneaney, Jay McGowan, Kris McLean, Guy McWethy, Janet Millard, Heather Nenninger, Matthew Ocko, Patricia O'Connor, Tonja Opperman, Ellison Orcutt, John Prange, Adam Quinn, Beverly Skinner, Douglas Stotz, Brian Sullivan, Jay Sumner, James Swanson, Ted J. Torgerson, Mike Vennard, Bernard Volet, Dean Waltee, Susan Weller, Michelle Williams, Melissa Wolfe, Richard Yates, and Jock Young

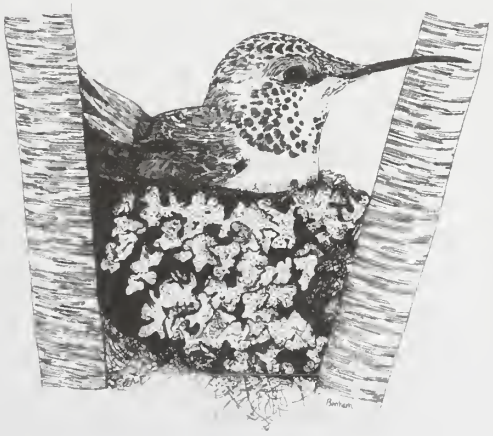
100 to 499 records

Jan Allen, Michael Andersen, John Anderson, Renner Anderson, Kirk Andrews, Nick and Paula Anich, Frederick Atwood, M. Barrick, Ned and Gigi Batchelder, Dale Becker, Mikael Behrens, Katie Benzel, Jeff Berglund, J. Berner, Jim Berry, Steve Betchkal, Ashley Beyer, Michael Bowen, Mike Boyce, Alan Bragg, Julie Breeden, Aaron Brees, Lou Bruno, Christopher Burney, Hunter Burningham, Geoff Butcher, Nancy Butkovich, Rory Cameron, Richard Cannings, Russell Cannings, Jay Carlisle, Steve Carson, Bruce Carter, Linda Chittum, Carolee Colter, Shilo Comeau, Anne and Kenneth Cook, Carey Cooper, Jacob Cooper, Charlotte Corkran, Patricia Corry, Joshua Covill, Charles Crawford, Mark Crawford, Mark Cress, Bob Crowley, Chad Cyrus, Kelsey Dalton, Steven Dawes, Andre Desrochers, Dave Dickson, Mac R. Donofrio, Arnie Dood, Paul Drescher, Steve Drilling, James Dunn, Peter Dunwiddie, Christopher Eliot, Chris Elphick, Laura Elze, Paulette Epple, Roger Evans,

Erin Fairbank, Patrick Farmer, Vanessa Fields, John Finnegan, Mike Fisher, John Fitzpatrick, Dennis Flath, Jenny Flesch, Robert Foppe, Tolline Gallagher, Rob Gappert, Maureen Geiger, Barbara Geller, Mel Goff, Daniel Gomez, Andrew Grainger, Bob Green, Jim Greene, Dale Gunderson, Richard Guthrie, Margaret Hahr, Nate Hall, Cliff Halverson, Joe Hanfman, Janet Hardin, Rita Harding, Christopher Harris, Lou Ann Harris, Bob Haynes, Stan Heath, Charles Hedeen, Bernie Hildebrand, Beth Hill, Shannon Hilty, Barton Hoag, Ray Hodson, Robert Hoffmann, Alex Hughes, Heather Hundt, Richard Hutto, Andrew Jakes, Ashley Jensen, August Johnson, Peggy Joki, Cedron Jones, Janice Jorgensen, Thomas Kallmeyer, Adam Kent, Craig Kesselheim, Jack Kirkley, Ethan Kistler, Marvin Krook, Mari Krumwiede, Nancy LaFramboise, Scott Lang, David Lautenbach, Debbie Leick, Jeremy Linden, Kurt Lindsay, Tim Ludwick, Peter Lundberg, Laura Lundby, Geof Lynn, Susan Maclin, Mary Anne Marjamaa, Bob Martinka, William Matthews, Terence McClelland, Andrew McGann, John McKeever, Matt McKim-Louder, Poody McLaughlin, Adam Messer, Annie Meyer, Craig Miller, Mark Mizak, Jim Moore, Karen Moulder, Jennifer Muscha, Lewis Myers, Susan Newell, Dan Nickerson, Johan Nilsson, Tim O'Brien, Marty O'Malley, John Parker, Marcia Parker, Grace Pearsall, Jody Peters, Dick Porter, Paul Prappas, Charles Pregler, Bill Pulliam, Christie Quarles, Barbara Quinlan, Brett Quiring, Michael Rabenberg, Bill Rainey, Larry Rau, Richard Reading, Monte Reder, Tom Reed, James Reichel, Van Remsen, Marco Restani, Kenneth Rieker, Wendy Rihner, Bob Ringler, Greg Risdahl, Ralph Rogers, Forrest Rowland, Jennifer Rycenga, Thomas Sanders, Karla Sartor, Kari Sawyer, Scott Schuette, Sandy Schull, Mary Schvetz, Michael Schwitters, Kimberly Sellers, Nathan Senner, David Shea, Maria Shepherd, Steve Sherman, Kate Shick, Neil Simpson, James Sipiora, Winter Smith, Ty Smucker, John Spencer, Leslie Starr, Andy Stepniewski, Monty Sullins, Brian Sullivan, Mark Sullivan, Shannon Swanson, Pete Swigert, Alex Taft, Lance Tanino, Bryan Tarbox, Graham Taylor, Steve Taylor, Fred Tilly, Steve Ting, Patrick Toomey, Neil Travis, Mark Traxler, Wayne Tree, Van Truan, C. Vince, Martha Vogt, Ben Wagner, Brett Walker, Larry Weeks, Phil Wegener, Herbert Weigl, Hillary Welch, Jackie Weller, Harold Wentland, George West, Chelsey Whenham, Stu and Rynel Wickend, Tate Wilcox, Aubrey Williams, Jason Wilmot, Rob Wingard, Steve Winger, Linda Winnie, Chris Wright, David Wrobleski, Ben Young, Sarah Young, Kathi and J. Kamps Younger, James Zelenak, and Michael Zielinski

1 to 99 records

More than two thousand individuals contributed from 1 to 99 records; each of these is of value. Space constraints prevent listing every name here, but we extend our THANKS to everyone for contributing their observations and assisting with improving our understanding of bird distributions in Montana.



Appendix M. Checklist of Birds of Montana

__ Greater White-fronted Goose
__ Snow Goose
__ Ross's Goose
__ Cackling Goose*
__ Canada Goose
__ Brant*
__ Mute Swan
__ Trumpeter Swan
__ Tundra Swan
__ Wood Duck
__ Gadwall
__ Eurasian Wigeon
__ American Wigeon
__ American Black Duck
__ Mallard
__ Blue-winged Teal
__ Cinnamon Teal
__ Northern Shoveler
__ Northern Pintail
__ Garganey*
__ Green-winged Teal
__ Canvasback
__ Redhead
__ Ring-necked Duck
__ Tufted Duck*
__ Greater Scaup
__ Lesser Scaup
__ Harlequin Duck
__ Surf Scoter
__ White-winged Scoter
__ Black Scoter*
__ Long-tailed Duck
__ Bufflehead
__ Common Goldeneye
__ Barrow's Goldeneye
__ Hooded Merganser
__ Common Merganser
__ Red-breasted Merganser
__ Ruddy Duck
__ Chukar
__ Gray Partridge
__ Ring-necked Pheasant
__ Ruffed Grouse
__ Greater Sage-Grouse
__ Spruce Grouse
__ Willow Ptarmigan*
__ White-tailed Ptarmigan
__ Dusky Grouse
__ Sharp-tailed Grouse
__ Greater Prairie-Chicken
__ Wild Turkey
__ Red-throated Loon*
__ Pacific Loon
__ Common Loon
__ Yellow-billed Loon*
__ Pied-billed Grebe
__ Horned Grebe
__ Red-necked Grebe
__ Eared Grebe
__ Western Grebe
__ Clark's Grebe
__ Manx Shearwater*
__ Wood Stork*
__ Double-crested Cormorant
__ American White Pelican
__ American Bittern
__ Least Bittern*
__ Great Blue Heron
__ Great Egret
__ Snowy Egret
__ Little Blue Heron*
__ Cattle Egret
__ Green Heron*
__ Black-crowned Night-Heron
__ Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*
__ Glossy Ibis*
__ White-faced Ibis
__ Turkey Vulture
__ Osprey
__ White-tailed Kite*
__ Mississippi Kite*
__ Bald Eagle
__ Northern Harrier
__ Sharp-shinned Hawk
__ Cooper's Hawk
__ Northern Goshawk
__ Red-shouldered Hawk*
__ Broad-winged Hawk
__ Swainson's Hawk
__ Red-tailed Hawk
__ Ferruginous Hawk
__ Rough-legged Hawk
__ Golden Eagle
__ Crested Caracara*
__ American Kestrel
__ Merlin
__ Gyrfalcon
__ Peregrine Falcon
__ Prairie Falcon
__ Yellow Rail*
__ Virginia Rail
__ Sora
__ Common Gallinule*
__ American Coot
__ Sandhill Crane
__ Whooping Crane
__ Black-bellied Plover
__ American Golden-Plover
__ Snowy Plover*
__ Semipalmated Plover
__ Piping Plover
__ Killdeer
__ Mountain Plover
__ Black-necked Stilt
__ American Avocet
__ Spotted Sandpiper
__ Solitary Sandpiper
__ Greater Yellowlegs
__ Willet
__ Lesser Yellowlegs
__ Upland Sandpiper
__ Whimbrel
__ Long-billed Curlew
__ Hudsonian Godwit
__ Marbled Godwit
__ Ruddy Turnstone
__ Black Turnstone*
__ Red Knot
__ Sanderling
__ Semipalmated Sandpiper
__ Western Sandpiper
__ Least Sandpiper
__ White-rumped Sandpiper
__ Baird's Sandpiper
__ Pectoral Sandpiper
__ Sharp-tailed Sandpiper*
__ Dunlin
__ Curlew Sandpiper*
__ Stilt Sandpiper
__ Buff-breasted Sandpiper
__ Short-billed Dowitcher
__ Long-billed Dowitcher
__ Wilson's Snipe
__ American Woodcock*
__ Wilson's Phalarope
__ Red-necked Phalarope
__ Red Phalarope*
__ Black-legged Kittiwake*
__ Sabine's Gull
__ Bonaparte's Gull
__ Little Gull*
__ Ross's Gull*
__ Laughing Gull*
__ Franklin's Gull
__ Mew Gull
__ Ring-billed Gull
__ California Gull
__ Herring Gull
__ Thayer's Gull
__ Iceland Gull*
__ Lesser Black-backed Gull*
__ Glaucous-winged Gull*
__ Glaucous Gull
__ Great Black-backed Gull*
__ Least Tern
__ Caspian Tern
__ Black Tern
__ Common Tern
__ Arctic Tern*
__ Forster's Tern
__ Pomarine Jaeger*

__ Parasitic Jaeger*
__ Long-tailed Jaeger*
__ Long-billed Murrelet*
__ Ancient Murrelet*
__ Rock Pigeon
__ Band-tailed Pigeon
__ Eurasian Collared-Dove
__ White-winged Dove*
__ Mourning Dove
__ Inca Dove*
__ Yellow-billed Cuckoo*
__ Black-billed Cuckoo
__ Barn Owl
__ Flammulated Owl
__ Western Screech-Owl
__ Eastern Screech-Owl
__ Great Horned Owl
__ Snowy Owl
__ Northern Hawk Owl
__ Northern Pygmy-Owl
__ Burrowing Owl
__ Barred Owl
__ Great Gray Owl
__ Long-eared Owl
__ Short-eared Owl
__ Boreal Owl
__ Northern Saw-whet Owl
__ Common Nighthawk
__ Common Poorwill
__ Whip-poor-will*
__ Black Swift
__ Chimney Swift
__ Vaux's Swift
__ White-throated Swift
__ Ruby-throated Hummingbird*
__ Black-chinned Hummingbird
__ Anna's Hummingbird*
__ Costa's Hummingbird*
__ Calliope Hummingbird
__ Broad-tailed Hummingbird
__ Rufous Hummingbird
__ Belted Kingfisher
__ Lewis's Woodpecker
__ Red-headed Woodpecker
__ Red-bellied Woodpecker*
__ Williamson's Sapsucker
__ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*
__ Red-naped Sapsucker
__ Downy Woodpecker
__ Hairy Woodpecker
__ White-headed Woodpecker*
__ American Three-toed Woodpecker
__ Black-backed Woodpecker
__ Northern Flicker
__ Pileated Woodpecker
__ Olive-sided Flycatcher
__ Western Wood-Pewee
__ Eastern Wood-Pewee*
__ Yellow-bellied Flycatcher*
__ Alder Flycatcher
__ Willow Flycatcher
__ Least Flycatcher
__ Hammond's Flycatcher
__ Gray Flycatcher*
__ Dusky Flycatcher
__ Cordilleran Flycatcher
__ Eastern Phoebe*
__ Say's Phoebe
__ Vermilion Flycatcher*
__ Ash-throated Flycatcher*
__ Great Crested Flycatcher*
__ Cassin's Kingbird
__ Western Kingbird
__ Eastern Kingbird
__ Scissor-tailed Flycatcher*
__ Loggerhead Shrike
__ Northern Shrike
__ White-eyed Vireo*
__ Yellow-throated Vireo*
__ Plumbeous Vireo
__ Cassin's Vireo
__ Blue-headed Vireo*
__ Warbling Vireo
__ Philadelphia Vireo*
__ Red-eyed Vireo
__ Gray Jay
__ Pinyon Jay
__ Steller's Jay
__ Blue Jay
__ Western Scrub-Jay*
__ Clark's Nutcracker
__ Black-billed Magpie
__ American Crow
__ Common Raven
__ Horned Lark
__ Purple Martin
__ Tree Swallow
__ Violet-green Swallow
__ Northern Rough-winged Swallow
__ Bank Swallow
__ Cliff Swallow
__ Barn Swallow
__ Black-capped Chickadee
__ Mountain Chickadee
__ Chestnut-backed Chickadee
__ Boreal Chickadee
__ Red-breasted Nuthatch
__ White-breasted Nuthatch
__ Pygmy Nuthatch
__ Brown Creeper
__ Rock Wren
__ Canyon Wren
__ Carolina Wren*
__ Bewick's Wren*
__ House Wren
__ Pacific Wren
__ Winter Wren*
__ Sedge Wren*
__ Marsh Wren
__ Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*
__ American Dipper
__ Golden-crowned Kinglet
__ Ruby-crowned Kinglet
__ Eastern Bluebird
__ Western Bluebird
__ Mountain Bluebird
__ Townsend's Solitaire
__ Veery
__ Gray-cheeked Thrush*
__ Swainson's Thrush
__ Hermit Thrush
__ Wood Thrush*
__ American Robin
__ Varied Thrush
__ Gray Catbird
__ Northern Mockingbird
__ Sage Thrasher
__ Brown Thrasher
__ Curve-billed Thrasher*
__ European Starling
__ Siberian Accentor*
__ American Pipit
__ Sprague's Pipit
__ Bohemian Waxwing
__ Cedar Waxwing
__ Lapland Longspur
__ Chestnut-collared Longspur
__ Smith's Longspur*
__ McCown's Longspur
__ Snow Bunting
__ Ovenbird
__ Northern Waterthrush
__ Golden-winged Warbler*
__ Blue-winged Warbler*
__ Black-and-white Warbler
__ Prothonotary Warbler*
__ Tennessee Warbler
__ Orange-crowned Warbler
__ Nashville Warbler
__ Connecticut Warbler*
__ MacGillivray's Warbler
__ Mourning Warbler
__ Kentucky Warbler*
__ Common Yellowthroat
__ Hooded Warbler*
__ American Redstart
__ Cape May Warbler
__ Northern Parula*
__ Magnolia Warbler
__ Bay-breasted Warbler*
__ Blackburnian Warbler*
__ Yellow Warbler
__ Chestnut-sided Warbler
__ Blackpoll Warbler
__ Black-throated Blue Warbler
__ Palm Warbler
__ Pine Warbler*

__ Yellow-rumped Warbler
__ Yellow-throated Warbler*
__ Prairie Warbler*
__ Black-throated Gray Warbler*
__ Townsend's Warbler
__ Black-throated Green Warbler*
__ Canada Warbler
__ Wilson's Warbler
__ Painted Redstart*
__ Yellow-breasted Chat
__ Green-tailed Towhee
__ Spotted Towhee
__ Eastern Towhee*
__ American Tree Sparrow
__ Chipping Sparrow
__ Clay-colored Sparrow
__ Brewer's Sparrow
__ Field Sparrow
__ Vesper Sparrow
__ Lark Sparrow
__ Black-throated Sparrow*
__ Sage Sparrow*
__ Lark Bunting
__ Savannah Sparrow
__ Grasshopper Sparrow
__ Baird's Sparrow
__ Le Conte's Sparrow
__ Nelson's Sparrow
__ Fox Sparrow
__ Song Sparrow
__ Lincoln's Sparrow
__ Swamp Sparrow
__ White-throated Sparrow
__ Harris's Sparrow
__ White-crowned Sparrow
__ Golden-crowned Sparrow*
__ Dark-eyed Junco
__ Summer Tanager*
__ Scarlet Tanager*
__ Western Tanager
__ Northern Cardinal*
__ Pyrrhuloxia*
__ Rose-breasted Grosbeak
__ Black-headed Grosbeak
__ Blue Grosbeak*
__ Lazuli Bunting
__ Indigo Bunting
__ Painted Bunting*
__ Dickcissel
__ Bobolink
__ Red-winged Blackbird
__ Eastern Meadowlark*
__ Western Meadowlark
__ Yellow-headed Blackbird
__ Rusty Blackbird
__ Brewer's Blackbird
__ Common Grackle
__ Great-tailed Grackle*
__ Brown-headed Cowbird
__ Orchard Oriole
__ Hooded Oriole*
__ Bullock's Oriole
__ Baltimore Oriole
__ Brambling*
__ Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
__ Black Rosy-Finch
__ Pine Grosbeak
__ Purple Finch
__ Cassin's Finch
__ House Finch
__ Red Crossbill
__ White-winged Crossbill
__ Common Redpoll
__ Hoary Redpoll
__ Pine Siskin
__ Lesser Goldfinch
__ American Goldfinch
__ Evening Grosbeak
__ House Sparrow

* Rare species in Montana

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Index

A
Accentor, Siberian, 126
Avocet, American, 54

B
Bittern
  American, 36
  Least, 36
Blackbird
  Brewer's, 162
  Red-winged, 160
  Rusty, 161
  Yellow-headed, 161
Bluebird
  Eastern, 120
  Mountain, 121
  Western, 120
Bobolink, 159
Brambling, 165
Brant, 14
Bufflehead, 24
Bunting
  Indigo, 158
  Lark, 149
  Lazuli, 158
  Painted, 159
  Snow, 129

C
Canvasback, 21
Caracara, Crested, 46
Cardinal, Northern, 156
Catbird, Gray, 124
Chat, Yellow-breasted, 143
Chickadee
  Black-capped, 112
  Boreal, 113
  Chestnut-backed, 113
  Mountain, 113
Chukar, 27
Collared-Dove, Eurasian, 76
Coot, American, 50
Cormorant, Double-crested, 35
Cowbird, Brown-headed, 163
Crane
  Sandhill, 50
  Whooping, 51
Creeper, Brown, 115
Crossbill
  Red, 167
  White-winged, 168
Crow, American, 109
Cuckoo
  Black-billed, 78
  Yellow-billed, 78
Curlew, Long-billed, 57

D
Dickcissel, 159
Dipper, American, 119
Dove
  Inca, 77
  Mourning, 77
  White-winged, 77
Dowitcher
  Long-billed, 63
  Short-billed, 63
Duck
  American Black, 17
  Harlequin, 23
  Long-tailed, 24
  Ring-necked, 21
  Ruddy, 26
  Tufted, 22
  Wood, 16
Dunlin, 62

E
Eagle
  Bald, 42
  Golden, 46
Egret
  Cattle, 38
  Great, 37
  Snowy, 38

F
Falcon
  Peregrine, 48
  Prairie, 48
Finch
  Cassin's, 167
  House, 167
  Purple, 166
Flicker
  Northern, 94
    Red-shafted, 94
    Yellow-shafted, 95
Flycatcher
  Alder, 97
  Ash-throated, 100
  Cordilleran, 99
  Dusky, 98
  Gray, 98
  Great Crested, 100
  Hammond's, 98
  Least, 97
  Olive-sided, 95
  Scissor-tailed, 102
  Vermilion, 100
  Willow, 97
  Yellow-bellied, 96

G
Gadwall, 16
Gallinule, Common, 50
Garganey, 19
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray, 118
Godwit
  Hudsonian, 57
  Marbled, 58
Goldeneye
  Barrow's, 25
  Common, 25
Golden-Plover
  American, 51
Goldfinch
  American, 170
  Lesser, 169
Goose
  Cackling, 14
  Canada, 14
  Greater White-fronted, 13
  Ross's, 13
  Snow, 13
Goshawk, Northern, 44
Grackle
  Common, 162
  Great-tailed, 162
Grebe
  Clark's, 34
  Eared, 34
  Horned, 33
  Pied-billed, 33
  Red-necked, 33
  Western, 34
Grosbeak
  Black-headed, 157
  Blue, 158
  Evening, 170
  Pine, 166
  Rose-breasted, 157

Grouse
Dusky, 29
Ruffed, 28
Sharp-tailed, 30
Spruce, 28
Gull
Bonaparte's, 66
California, 69
Franklin's, 68
Glaucous, 71
Glaucous-winged, 71
Great Black-backed, 71
Herring, 69
Iceland, 70
Laughing, 68
Lesser Black-backed, 70
Little, 67
Mew, 68
Ring-billed, 69
Ross's, 67
Sabine's, 66
Thayer's, 70
Gyrfalcon, 47

H
Harrier, Northern, 42
Hawk
Broad-winged, 44
Cooper's, 43
Ferruginous, 45
Red-shouldered, 44
Red-tailed, 45
Rough-legged, 46
Sharp-shinned, 43
Swainson's, 45
Heron
Great Blue, 37
Green, 39
Little Blue, 38
Hummingbird
Anna's, 87
Black-chinned, 87
Broad-tailed, 89
Calliope, 88
Costa's, 88
Ruby-throated, 87
Rufous, 89

I
Ibis
Glossy, 40
White-faced, 40

J
Jaeger
Long-tailed, 75
Parasitic, 74
Pomarine, 74
Jay
Blue, 107
Gray, 106
Pinyon, 107
Steller's, 107
Junco
Dark-eyed, 153
Gray-headed, 155
Oregon (Montana), 154
Pink-sided, 154
Slate-colored, 154
White-winged, 155

K
Kestrel, American, 47
Killdeer, 53
Kingbird
Cassin's, 101
Eastern, 101
Western, 101
Kingfisher, Belted, 89
Kinglet
Golden-crowned, 119
Ruby-crowned, 120
Kite
Mississippi, 42
White-tailed, 41
Kittiwake, Black-legged, 66
Knot, Red, 59

L
Lark, Horned, 109
Longspur
Chestnut-collared, 128
Lapland, 127
McCown's, 129
Smith's, 128
Loon
Common, 32
Pacific, 31
Red-throated, 31
Yellow-billed, 32

M
Magpie, Black-billed, 108
Mallard, 18
Martin, Purple, 110
Meadowlark
Eastern, 160
Western, 160
Merganser
Common, 26
Hooded, 25
Red-breasted, 26
Merlin, 47
Mockingbird, Northern, 124
Murrelet
Ancient, 75
Long-billed, 75

N
Nighthawk, Common, 84
Night-Heron
Black-crowned, 39
Yellow-crowned, 39
Nutcracker, Clark's, 108
Nuthatch
Pygmy, 114
Red-breasted, 114
White-breasted, 114

O
Oriole
Baltimore, 164
Bullock's, 164
Hooded, 163
Northern, 165
Orchard, 163
Osprey, 41
Ovenbird, 129
Owl
Barn, 79
Barred, 82
Boreal, 83
Burrowing, 82
Flammulated, 79
Great Gray, 82
Great Horned, 80
Long-eared, 83
Northern Hawk, 81
Northern Saw-whet, 84
Short-eared, 83
Snowy, 80

P
Partridge, Gray, 27
Parula, Northern, 135
Pelican, American White, 36
Phalarope
Red, 65

Red-necked, 65
Wilson's, 65
Pheasant, Ring-necked, 27
Phoebe
Eastern, 99
Say's, 99
Pigeon
Band-tailed, 76
Rock, 76
Pintail, Northern, 19
Pipit
American, 126
Sprague's, 126
Plover
Black-bellied, 51
Mountain, 53
Piping, 52
Semipalmated, 52
Snowy, 52
Poorwill, Common, 84
Prairie-Chicken, Greater, 30
Ptarmigan
White-tailed, 29
Willow, 29
Pygmy-Owl, Northern, 81
Pyrrhuloxia, 157

R

Rail
Virginia, 49
Yellow, 48
Raven, Common, 109
Redhead, 21
Redpoll
Common, 168
Hoary, 169
Redstart
American, 135
Painted, 143
Robin, American, 123
Rosy-Finch
Black, 166
Gray-crowned, 165

S

Sage-Grouse, Greater, 28
Sanderling, 59
Sandpiper
Baird's, 61
Buff-breasted, 63
Curlew, 62
Least, 60
Pectoral, 61
Semipalmated, 59
Sharp-tailed, 61
Solitary, 55
Spotted, 54
Stilt, 62
Upland, 56
Western, 60
White-rumped, 60
Sapsucker
Red-naped, 91
Williamson's, 91
Yellow-bellied, 91
Scaup
Greater, 22
Lesser, 22
Scoter
Black, 24
Surf, 23
White-winged, 23
Screech-Owl
Eastern, 80
Western, 79
Scrub-Jay, Western, 108
Shearwater, Manx, 35
Shoveler, Northern, 19
Shrike
Loggerhead, 102
Northern, 103
Siskin, Pine, 169
Snipe, Wilson's, 64
Solitaire, Townsend's, 121
Sora, 49
Sparrow
American Tree, 145
Baird's, 150
Black-throated, 148
Brewer's, 146
Timberline, 146
Chipping, 145
Clay-colored, 146
Field, 147
Fox, 151
Golden-crowned, 153
Grasshopper, 149
Harris's, 152
House, 171
Lark, 148
Le Conte's, 150
Lincoln's, 151
Nelson's, 150
Sage, 148
Savannah, 149
Song, 151
Swamp, 152
Vesper, 147
White-crowned, 153
White-throated, 152
Starling, European, 125
Stilt, Black-necked, 54
Stork, Wood, 35
Swallow
Bank, 111
Barn, 112
Cliff, 111
Northern Rough-winged, 111
Tree, 110
Violet-green, 110
Swan
Mute, 15
Trumpeter, 15
Tundra, 16
Swift
Black, 85
Chimney, 85
Vaux's, 86
White-throated, 86

T

Tanager
Scarlet, 156
Summer, 155
Western, 156
Teal
Blue-winged, 18
Cinnamon, 18
Green-winged, 20
Eurasian Green-winged, 20
Tern
Arctic, 73
Black, 72
Caspian, 72
Common, 73
Forster's, 74
Least, 72
Thrasher
Brown, 125
Curve-billed, 125
Sage, 124
Thrush
Gray-cheeked, 122
Hermit, 122
Swainson's, 122
Varied, 123
Wood, 123

Towhee
Eastern, 144
Green-tailed, 144
Spotted, 144
Turkey, Wild, 31
Turnstone
Black, 58
Ruddy, 58

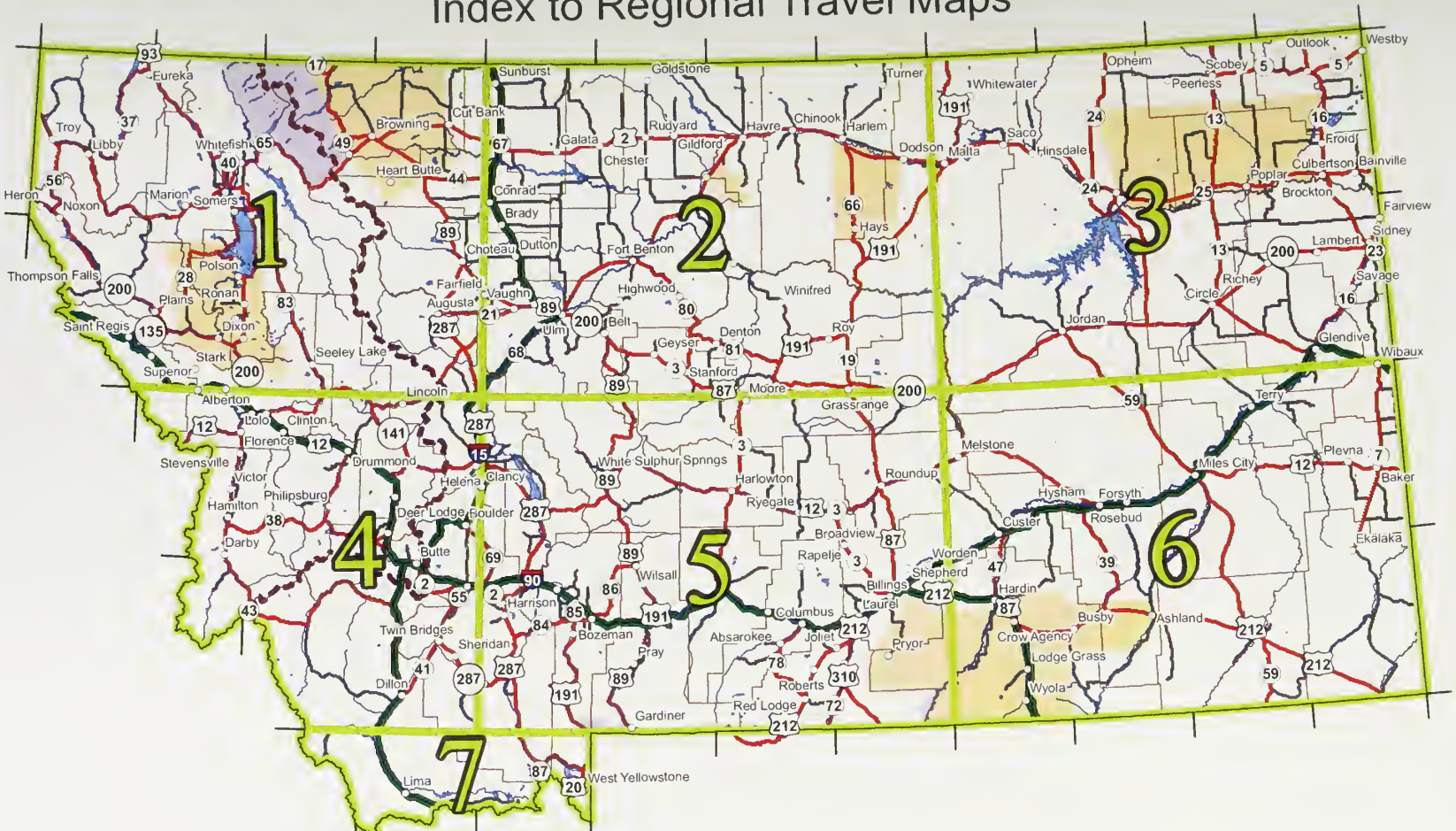
V
Veery, 121
Vireo
Blue-headed, 104
Cassin's, 104
Philadelphia, 105
Plumbeous, 104
Red-eyed, 106
Solitary, 105
Warbling, 105
White-eyed, 103
Yellow-throated, 103
Vulture, Turkey, 40

W
Warbler
Bay-breasted, 136
Black-and-white, 131
Blackburnian, 136
Blackpoll, 138
Black-throated Blue, 138
Black-throated Gray, 141
Black-throated Green, 142
Blue-winged, 130
Canada, 142
Cape May, 135
Chestnut-sided, 137
Connecticut, 133
Golden-winged, 130
Hooded, 134
Kentucky, 134
MacGillivray's, 133
Magnolia, 136
Mourning, 133
Nashville, 132
Orange-crowned, 132
Palm, 139
Pine, 139
Prairie, 141
Prothonotary, 131
Tennessee, 132
Townsend's, 141
Wilson's, 142
Yellow, 137
Yellow-rumped, 139
Audubon's, 140
Myrtle, 140
Yellow-throated, 140
Waterthrush, Northern, 130
Waxwing
Bohemian, 127
Cedar, 127
Whimbrel, 56
Whip-poor-will, 85
Wigeon
American, 17
Eurasian, 17
Willet, 55
Woodcock, American, 64
Woodpecker
American Three-toed, 93
Black-backed, 93
Downy, 92
Hairy, 92
Lewis's, 90
Pileated, 95
Red-bellied, 90
Red-headed, 90
White-headed, 93
Wood-Pewee
Eastern, 96
Western, 96
Wren
Bewick's, 116
Canyon, 115
Carolina, 116
House, 116
Marsh, 118
Pacific, 117
Rock, 115
Sedge, 118
Winter, 117

Y
Yellowlegs
Greater, 55
Lesser, 56
Yellowthroat, Common, 134

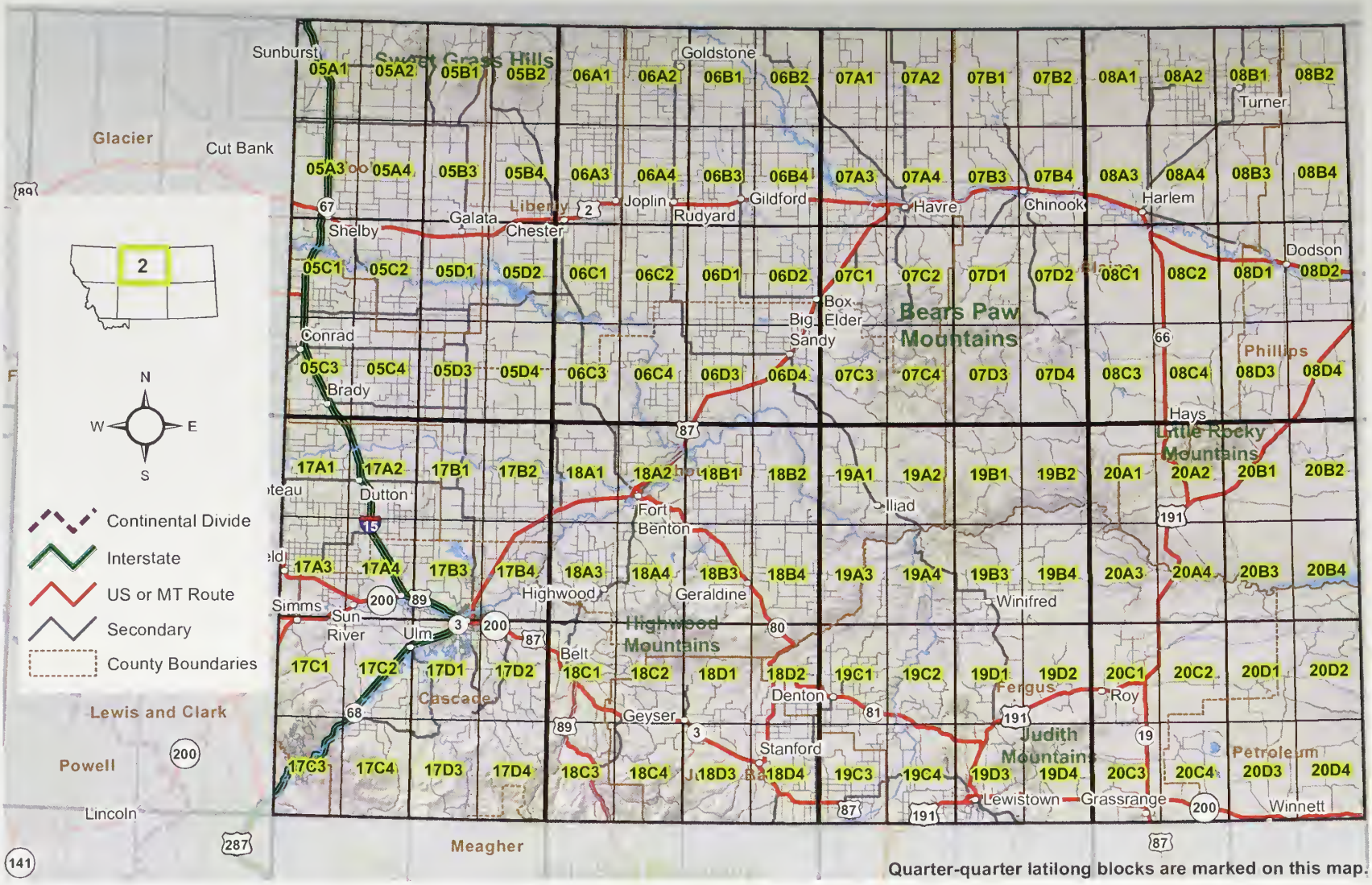
Notes

Index to Regional Travel Maps



See following pages for detailed regional travel maps.

Quarter-quarter latilong blocks are marked on this map.



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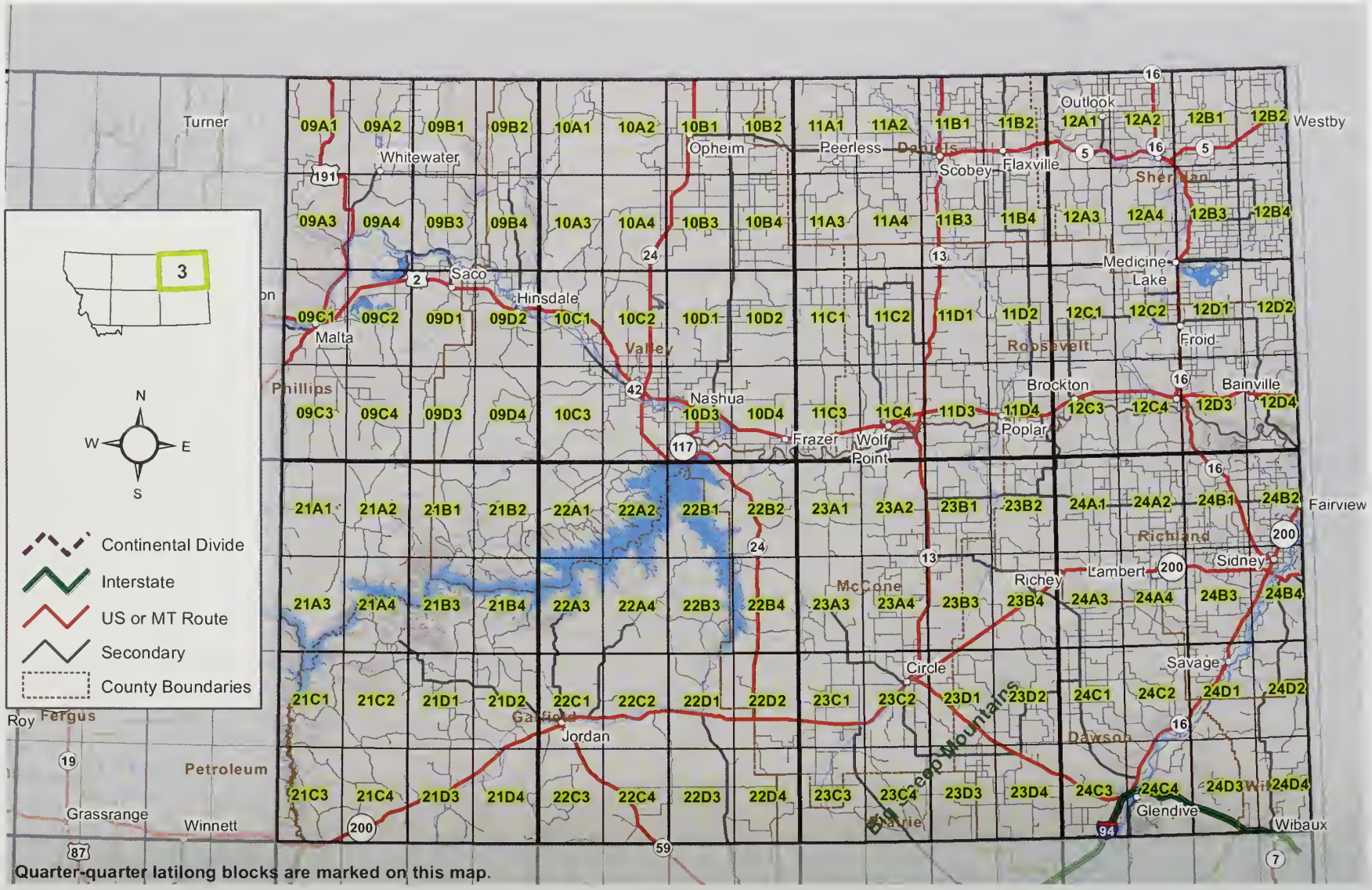

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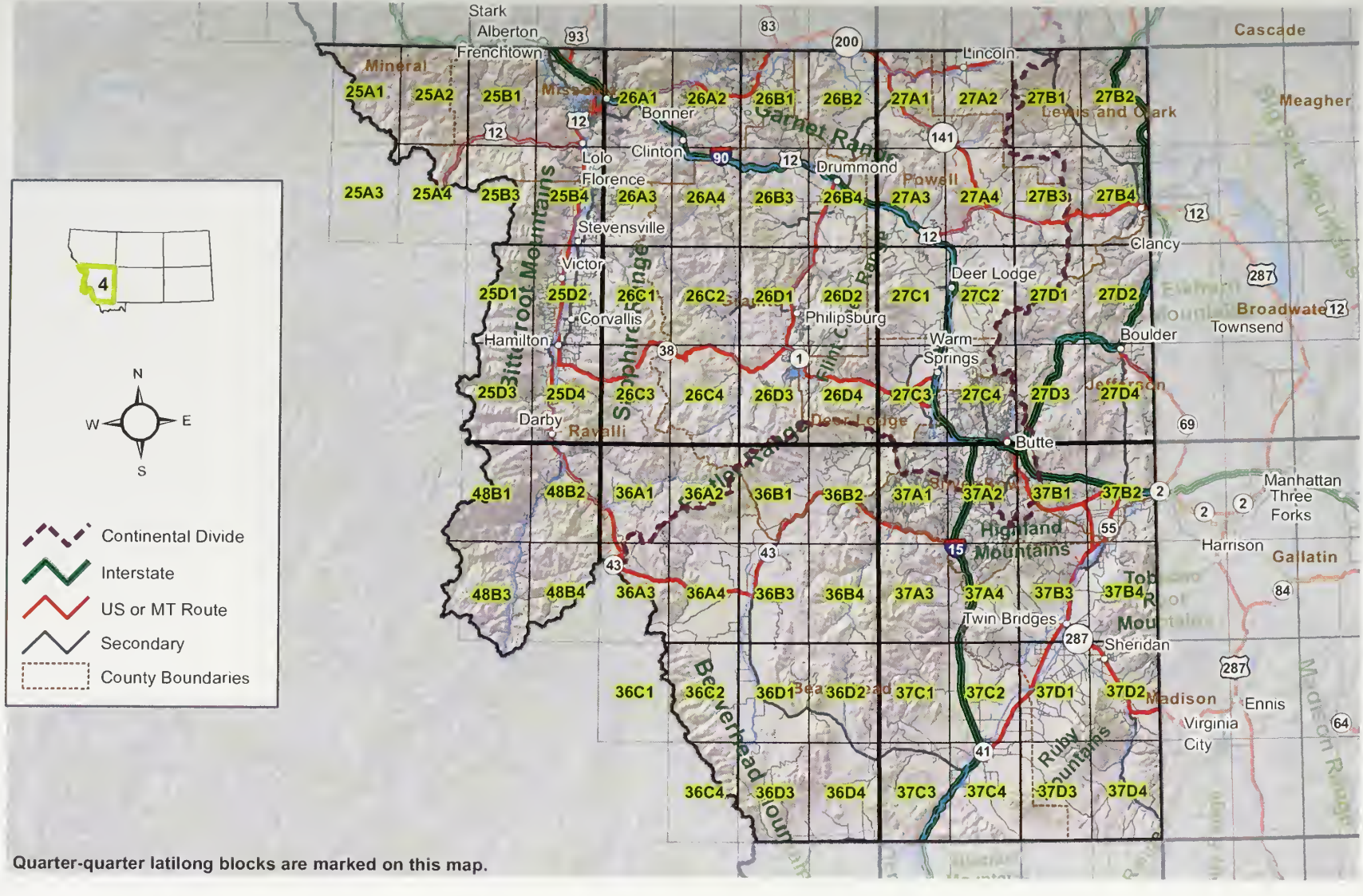
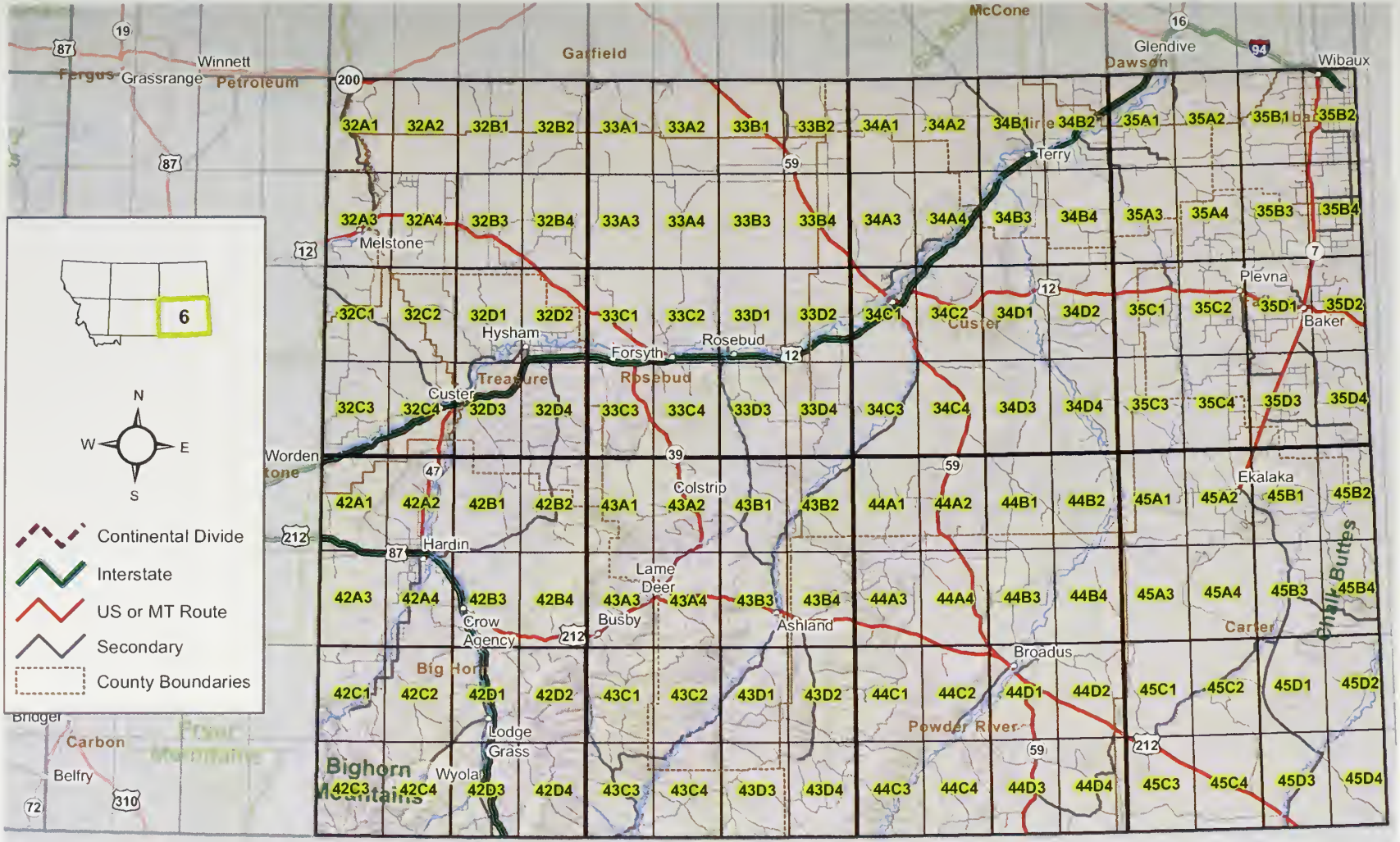


Quarter-quarter latilong blocks are marked on this map.

Quarter-quarter latilong blocks are marked on this map.



Quarter-quarter latilong blocks are marked on this map.

Quarter-quarter latilong blocks are marked on this map.

-116 -115 -114 -113 -112 -111 -110 -109 -108 -107 -106 -105 -104

49 48 47 46 45

N W E S

Interstate
US or MT Route
Secondary
Continental Divide
Latilong Lines
Quarter Latilong Lines
County Boundaries
Indian Reservations
National Park Service

Quarter latilong identifier is indicated in the center of each QLL block.

60 30 0 60 120 Miles

Great Falls

17B3

17B4

17D1

17D2

25B

26A

27C

27D

37A

37B

27B

28A

41A

41B

Missoula

Butte

Helena

Billings

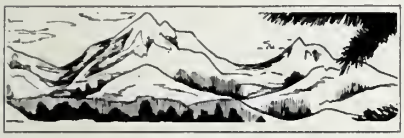
More 'thank yous' for support of this boo

Mission Mountain Audubon Society

MPC
RANC

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

INTERMOUNTAIN W
JOINT VENTURE



Pintler Audubon Society

PlumC

Sacajawea Audubon Society

Upper Missouri
Audubon So

WESTECH
Environmental Services, Inc.

YELLOWSTONE VALLEY AUD
- FROM THE PRAIRIES TO THE PEAKS.

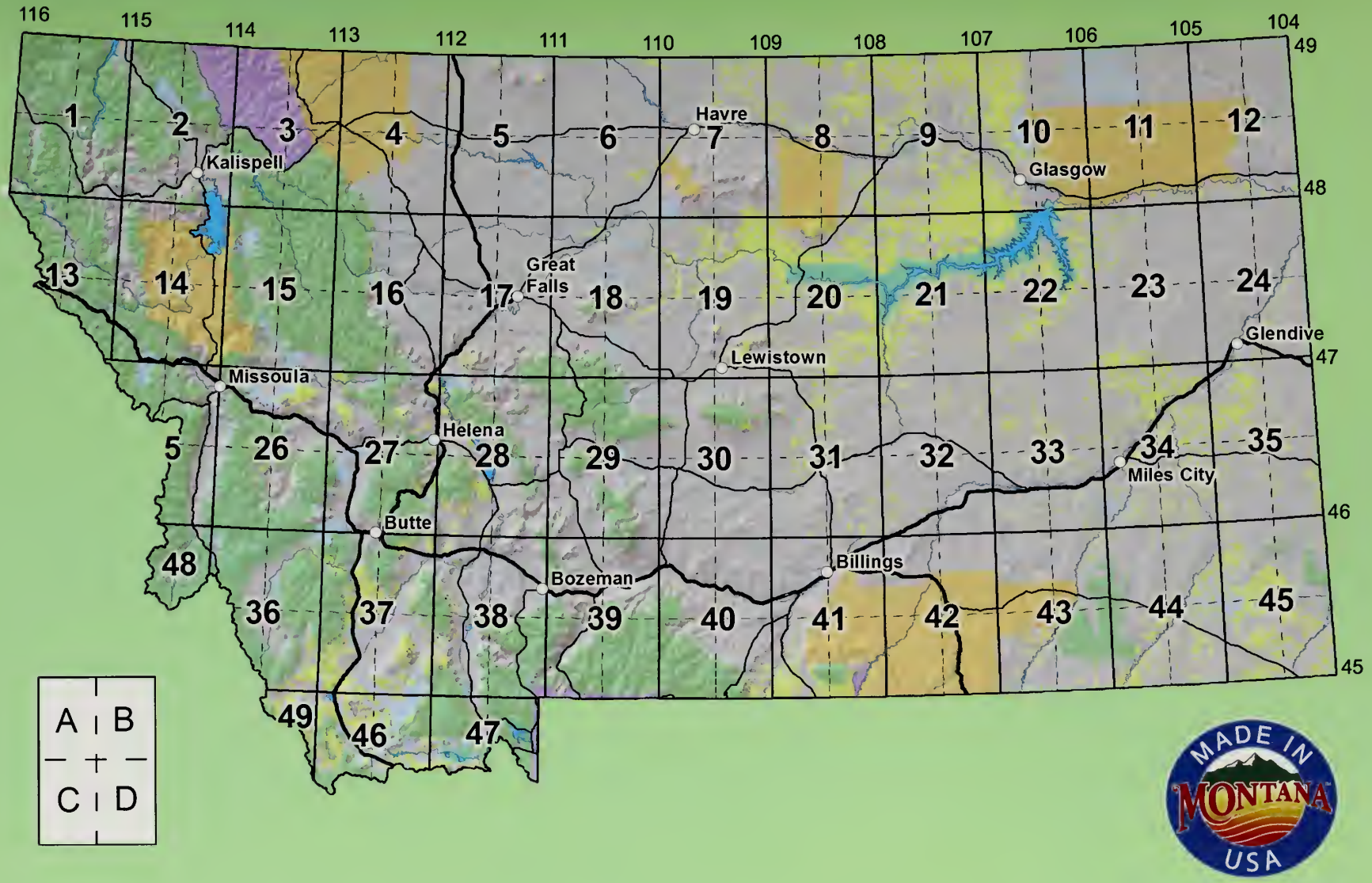
Legend

For a complete legend and detailed descriptions of each legend item, see pages 10 - 12.

B	Direct evidence of breeding.
	Observation records for years 1991 – 2002 for **B**.
b	Indirect evidence of breeding.
	Observation records for years 1991 – 2002 for **b**.
t	No evidence of breeding, but observed between 16 February and 14 December.
	Observation records for years 1991 – 2002 for **t**.
	Latilongs where the species was reported prior to 1991 and not since.
	QLL where the species was reported prior to 1991 and not since.
W	Overwintering; regular sightings between 15 December and 15 February.
	Cumulative historical information for **W**.
w	Observed during the wintering season (15 December to 15 February), but not confirmed as overwintering.
	Cumulative historical information for **w**.

2003-2011 = total number of new sightings submitted for this edition.

T E C	Threatened, endangered, or candidate species.
SOC	Species of Concern
SI	Species of Interest
R1/2/3	Rare bird status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Havre
Kalispell
Glasgow
Great Falls
Lewistown
Glendive
Missoula
Helena
Miles City
Butte
Billings
Bozeman
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46
47
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MADE IN
MONTANA
USA